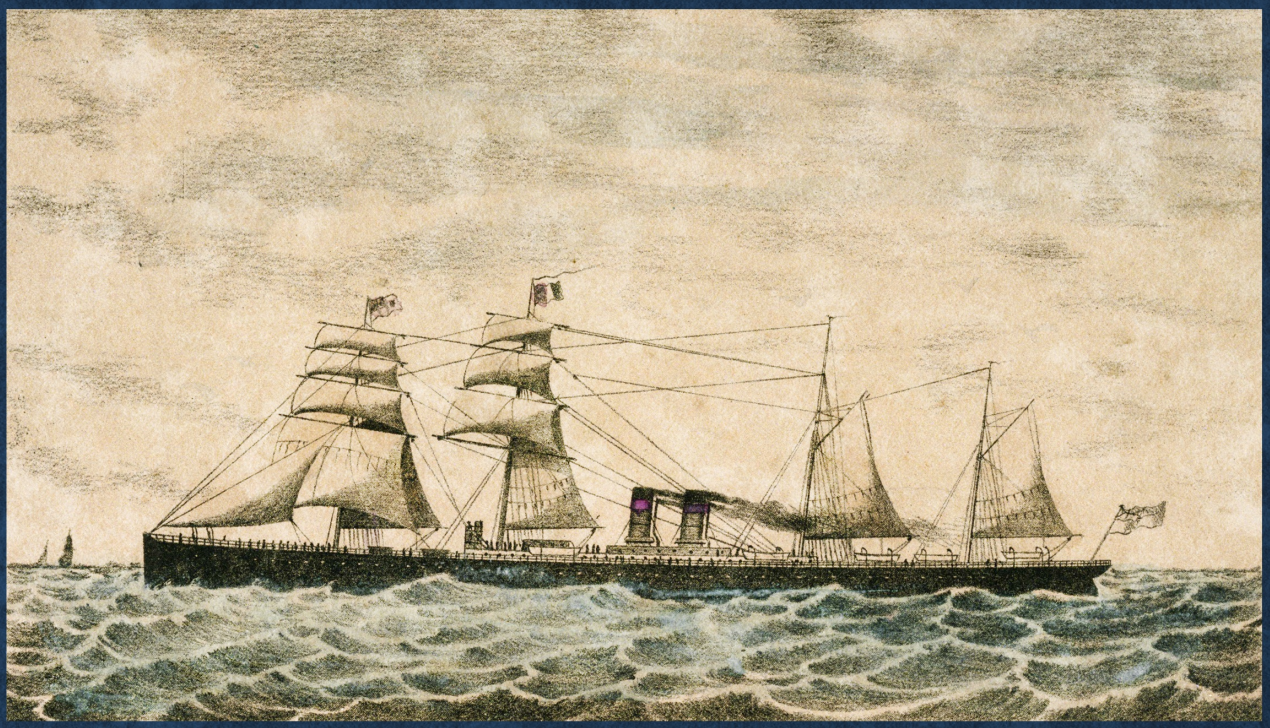
From Fjord to Prairie

The Family Story of Marie Kristiansdatter



Daniel Webster Hallock

From rural Norway to the American frontier, this is the true story of a family shaped by hardship, resilience, and the search for a better life.

Centered on Marie Kristiansdatter, born in 1852 in Ringsaker, this narrative follows multiple generations as they moved between the farms of Hedmark and, ultimately, across the Atlantic to the plains of the United States. Through parish records, censuses, and immigration documents, their lives are reconstructed in vivid detail.

These were laborers, tenant farmers, and servants who lived in tightly bound communities where opportunity was limited and survival required constant work. Faced with difficult choices, they joined the great wave of Norwegian emigration, leaving behind familiar landscapes for an uncertain future in America.

Their journey carried them through ocean crossings and rail lines into Dakota Territory, where new lives were built from little more than determination and endurance.

Blending careful research with engaging storytelling, this book brings together history and family memory to illuminate a world often reduced to names and dates. It offers a deeper look at how ordinary people lived, struggled, and ultimately transformed their futures.

Perfect for readers interested in genealogy, Norwegian history, and the immigrant experience, this is a story of where we come from and how those origins continue to shape us.

A printed version of this book can be found on Amazon. Ebook Generated April 15, 2026 (4:16pm).

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The Family Story of Marie Kristiansdatter

by Daniel Webster Hallock

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A Family's Beginning

This is the story of a Norwegian woman named Marie Kristiansdatter and the family that grew around her. It is a story of farms and fjords, of children and choices, of faith, hardship, courage, and change. It is also, in a very real sense, our story.

Figure 1
Lake Mjøsa

Marie was born 1852 in Ringsaker parish in Hedmark, Norway, in a region of rich farmland that stretches along Lake Mjøsa, the largest lake in that country. She lived at a time when Norway was poor, rural, and deeply rooted in its traditions. Families were tied to farms that had existed for centuries, and a person's identity was often defined by the land they lived on and the family they belonged to.

Marie's life would not be simple or predictable. She would form relationships that did not follow social expectations of the time. She would raise children connected to different fathers and different farms. Eventually her life, and the lives of her children, would become intertwined with the greatest migration in Norwegian history, as her family journeyed across the Atlantic to a new life in North America.

This genealogy traces the people connected to Marie, including the men important in her life - Mathias Andersen, Peder Jensen, and Bernt Togstad - and especially her children, who carried her story forward. Among them are John Fremstad (Johan Pedersen), Edward Fremstad (Even Mathiassen), and the children of Marie and Bernt, including Julia, Christian, Bernhard, Maren, and Sina Togstad. Each of these individuals lived through times of transition, moving from traditional Norwegian farm life to modern North American communities. Their lives bridge two worlds: the old country and the new.

This book is not just a list of names and dates. It aims to tell a human story. It will describe:

- Where they came from in Norway
- What kind of world in which they lived
- Who the principal figures were
- Where places like Ringsaker, Stange, Fremstad, Togstad, and Mengshoel were
- How their lives unfolded over time
- How they became part of the Norwegian-American story in the Midwest

To help make sense of their lives, this book will combine narrative history with factual genealogical

information. It will include descriptions of Norwegian farm communities, explanations of Norwegian naming customs, and background on why so many Norwegians left their homeland in the late 1800s. It will also include time lines, maps, and genealogy sheets to illustrate how one life connects to another. Further, it will touch on cultural and historical aspects of life at that time.

This work is based primarily on historical records preserved in church registers, censuses, emigration lists, and American records.

In the end, this book is a tribute to Marie and to the family that came from her. It is an attempt know where we came from, how we got here, and what kinds of lives were lived before ours. These people faced poverty, social challenges, emotional loss, physical hardship, and the uncertainty of migration. Through all of that, they built families, created homes, and left a legacy that touches us today.

This book is written so that our children, grandchildren, and future generations will know that their story did not begin in America. It began in small Norwegian parishes, among lakes and forests and farms with names like Fremstad, Togstad, and Mengshoel - and with a woman named Marie, whose life tied these places and people together.

About This Book

This project grew out of earlier family history work. After completing the book, *The Strength of Oakes*, which told the story of Hazel Oakes - the common ancestor uniting so many branches of our family - I wanted to complete the story. Hazel's life and descendants gave us a story of strength, endurance, and family continuity. Standing beside Hazel in that story was her husband, John Fremstad, and with him came a deep and fascinating Norwegian heritage that deserved to be explored and understood in its own right.

Who were the Norwegians who became part of our family? Where did they come from, and what journeys brought them here? Answering those questions meant turning toward Norway, toward church registers written in another language, toward unfamiliar place names, and toward lives lived in a very different world. What began as curiosity gradually became a determined effort to recover this branch of our heritage and give it the same care, respect, and storytelling that Hazel's line received.

This book is the result of that effort. It is meant not only to preserve information, but to connect us - to remind every reader that the lives we live today stand on generations of courage, resilience, and faith. Just as *The Strength of Oakes* preserved the Oakes story, this work seeks to preserve the Fremstad and Togstad story, so our family will never lose sight of the remarkable people who carried our name across the ocean and into a new world.

Norwegian Immigration to America

When Norwegians began leaving their homeland for America, they came from a society tightly rooted in geography, church, and custom. In 1814 most of Norway's people were concentrated around the Oslo Fjord and the fertile belt stretching north toward Lake Mjøsa.

Beneath the surface of picturesque fjords and farms, however, lay growing pressures. Population growth strained limited agricultural resources; prospects for many young Norwegians - particularly those from poorer rural classes - were bleak. Crop failures and mechanized farming negatively impacted farm laborers. Alcohol abuse was a major social problem, destroying families and livelihoods. Social and religious life were governed by the state Lutheran church. For countless individuals, the sense of constraint, limited opportunity, and hardship fostered thoughts of leaving.

Marie Kristiansdatter's family lived at the heart of this world in Ringsaker, Stange, Nes, and Ottestad. These locations were all near Lake Mjøsa.

Choosing to Leave

Norwegian emigration was not a forced displacement, nor a involuntary wave of desperation. It was largely a deliberate choice. Many emigrants carefully weighed their chances at home against the opportunities rumored to exist abroad. The people who left were often cotters (tenant laborers tied to a farm), farm laborers, and servants - those with little economic security and few prospects in their current world.

Early emigrants came from well off, independent, farming families, such as Tinn. Later, in places like Ringsaker, poorer rural workers predominated among the emigrants. Earlier settlers in America sent money home to help relatives pay passage. Hope came as much through human connection as through ambition.

Members of Marie's extended family would eventually make the same choice, with their lives and records later appearing in places like Wisconsin, Minnesota, and South Dakota. Their personal stories follow the same arc seen across Norway: limited prospects at home balanced against real opportunity in America.

Ironically, while Norwegians viewed America with hope, Norwegian authorities viewed emigration with anxiety and resentment. They could not understand why ordinary people would abandon their homeland and saw emigration as a threat to society and stability. The government issued discouraging reports, more propaganda than truthful analysis, intending to dissuade citizens from leaving. By then, information networks had grown too strong.

Imagining America

Stories of America circulated widely in Norway - through letters, guidebooks, and travelers' accounts. Books like *True Account of America* fed curiosity and provided practical knowledge. The *Muskego Manifesto*, written by settlers in Wisconsin, acknowledged hardship and danger but testified to freedoms unimaginable in Norway: equality before the law, religious liberty, and the simple dignity of being able to make an honest living through one's own work. These voices did not deny suffering but insisted that America's promise outweighed its difficulties.

Families connected to Marie would have heard these same letters and stories. By the time they began their journeys, America was not a mystery. It was a topic of discussion at kitchen tables and church gatherings, including in the very parishes where Marie lived.

Crossing the Ocean

Organized Norwegian emigration officially began in 1825, when the sloop Restauration carried 6 families from Stavanger to New York City. Many of these early emigrants were Quakers seeking greater religious freedom than was permitted under Norway's state church. After arriving in America, they moved on to settle in Kendall, New York, witnessing the opening of the Erie Canal while en route.

Over time, the journey became more organized. Most emigrants traveled first to Britain, crossing to Hull by smaller ships, then boarding trains to Liverpool, before embarking on transatlantic steamers.

Figure 2
On Board an Emigrant Ship

Life Below Deck

Steerage was the third-class section of transatlantic passenger ships and the cheapest way to cross the ocean. It was designed to make mass emigration possible by reducing the cost of passage to a fraction of what first- or second-class tickets required. That low price came at a significant cost. Steerage passengers gave up comfort, privacy, sanitation, and food quality.

A trip in steerage in the 1890s was not so much a voyage as an endurance. Steerage passengers were housed deep in the ship, below the waterline, in long, narrow compartments that smelled of damp wood, coal smoke, unwashed bodies, and boiled food. Light was scarce. Small portholes, if there were any, were often shuttered in rough seas, leaving the space lit only by dim oil lamps. Air

moved sluggishly, heavy with heat in summer and bitterly cold in winter.

Sleeping arrangements were crude. Iron bunks were stacked two or three high, fitted with thin straw mattresses that quickly grew sour with moisture. Blankets were few. Families slept together, sometimes sharing bunks in shifts. Privacy did not exist. Crying children, coughing adults, and the groans of the seasick blended into a constant, restless sound.

Food was basic and monotonous. On many immigrant ships, especially in the earlier years of Norwegian emigration, passengers were issued simple rations and expected to cook for themselves at a small communal galley stove. Meals were eaten from tin bowls with shared utensils. Soup, porridge, boiled potatoes, bread, and occasionally salted meat made up most of the fare. Fresh water was rationed. Those unused to ship food often went hungry, either from nausea or distrust of unfamiliar dishes. In later years, particularly with the rise of large steamship lines, meals were more often prepared by the ship's crew and served to steerage passengers.

Figure 3
The Steerage

Seasickness was nearly universal. In rough weather, passengers lay in their bunks for days, unable to eat or stand. Buckets were placed along the aisles, but overflow was common. Cleanliness was difficult to maintain, and disease spread easily. Lice were frequent companions. Cholera and typhus were feared, and ship doctors inspected steerage passengers closely as landfall approached.

Steerage was not only misery. In quieter moments, people gathered to talk, sing, or tell stories of home. Women mended clothes. Men compared rumors of wages and land. Children, once their stomachs settled, played between the bunks. There was a shared understanding that this discomfort was temporary, endured for the sake of something better.

When the ship finally slowed and the smell of land reached the decks, steerage passengers pressed toward the hatches. After days or weeks underground, the first breath of fresh air felt almost unreal. Many had arrived weak, dirty, and exhausted, but also filled with a cautious hope. The

hardships of steerage became, for many immigrants, the first story they told of the price paid to begin a new life.

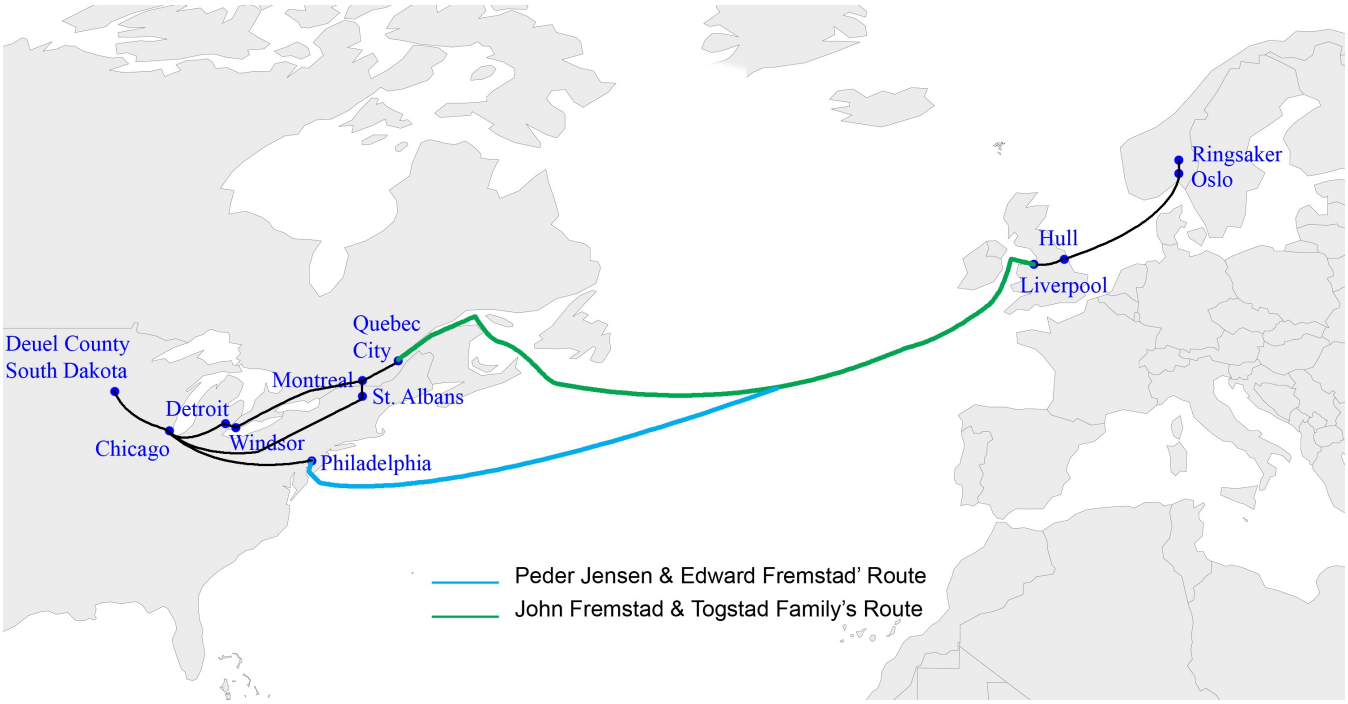


Figure 4
Emigration Routes

Arrival in America

Many Scandinavians did not enter the country through New York (Ellis Island), but instead first landed at Quebec City in Canada. A steamship or train would transport them further down the St. Lawrence River from Quebec City to Montreal. In Montreal, a train of Canada's Grand Trunk Railroad would take them to the border in Windsor, Ontario.

At Windsor, they would cross into the United States at Detroit, Michigan. From Detroit most would continue on the Grand Trunk Railroad to Chicago. From Chicago, all points to the West could be reached.

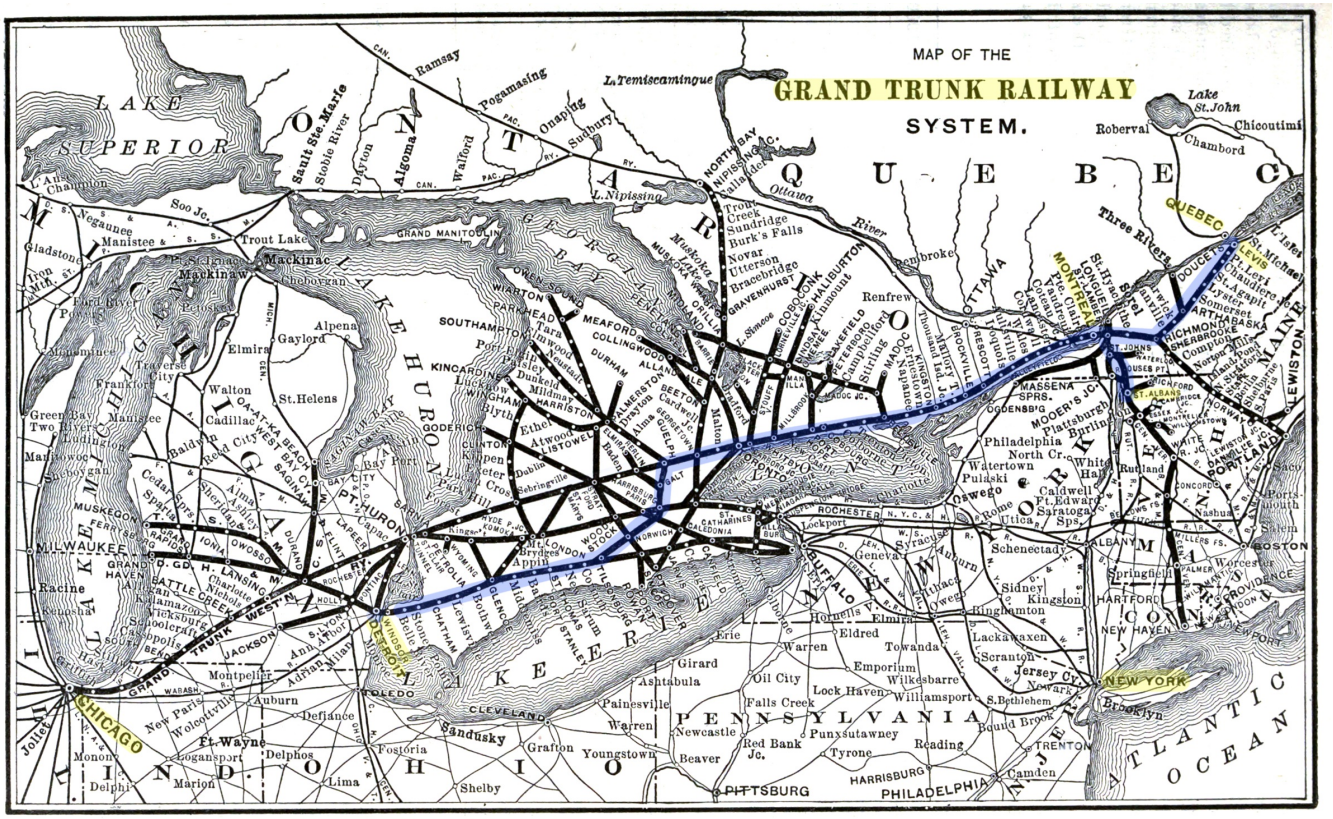


Figure 5
Grand Trunk Rail Routes, 1901

Yellow: Cities of Note
Blue: Possible Routes

Instead of Windsor, some Scandinavian emigrants, arriving in Canada, such as Marie and her children, continued their journey inland from Montreal aboard the Grand Trunk Railway (GTR), crossing into the Unites States directly south of Montreal. The GTR had a line from Montreal to St. Albans, Vermont. At St. Albans, they officially crossed into the United States, where immigration inspections were conducted and recorded in the now well-known St. Albans border lists.

Figure 6
Montreal Rail Station

After clearing inspection, trains often carried emigrants onward to Albany, New York, one of the major railroad junctions linking eastern entry points to

westbound lines. From there, travelers continued across the expanding rail network toward the Midwest and the northern plains, ultimately reaching destinations such as Toronto, South Dakota (see figure 15 #5), where established Scandinavian communities and opportunities for land and work awaited them.

The entire trip would cost $20-$30 ($700-$1000 today) for a ticket in steerage. Many emigrants had an employer in America pay their crossing fare. It typically took a year of work to repay the cost of the ticket.

The journey was dangerous not only physically but socially: major port cities teemed with swindlers, runners (someone who got a kick back by guiding the immigrant to specific trains or lodging), and fraudulent boarding-house keepers ready to prey on inexperienced newcomers, sometimes even fellow Norwegians.

Young Norwegian women also immigrated in significant numbers, often traveling alone or with minimal family protection, which exposed them to dangers beyond the already harsh conditions of the journey. Upon arrival, they were frequent targets of swindlers who exploited their lack of language skills and knowledge of American customs.

Promised respectable domestic work, some women instead found themselves placed in unsafe households, underpaid positions, or coerced labor arrangements. Others faced the risk of sexual exploitation, forced dependency, or social isolation, with little recourse if mistreated. For unmarried women in particular, reputation and survival were tightly bound together, making the immigrant experience both an opportunity for independence and a perilous negotiation of trust in an unfamiliar world.

The paths taken by Marie's family followed these same established migration routes. When we later find them in Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, and eventually even in Spokane, Washington, it is because these transportation corridors carried thousands of Norwegians directly into the American Midwest and beyond.

Great Route to the West!
1857.
1857.
GRAND TRUNK
VICTORIA RAIL ROAD BRIDGE.
ENTIRE LENGTH 7000ft. BEING THE LONGEST BRIDGE IN THE WORLD.
RAIL ROAD
55 Miles Saved between Maine & the West.
AN EXPRESS TRAIN LEAVES PORTLAND & DANVILLE JUNCTION, FOR
Montreal, Quebec & Toronto
EVERY MORNING, making a Direct Connection (at Toronto,) with the GREAT WESTERN RAILROAD, and forming the MOST EXPEDITIOUS, PLEASANT AND ECONOMICAL ROUTE TO
HAMILTON, LONDON, BUFFALO
DETROIT, TOLEDO, CLEVELAND
PITTSBURG, CINCINNATI, CAIRO,
ST. LOUIS, CHICAGO
MILWAUKEE, DUNLEITH, ST. PAUL,
Madison, Iowa City, Burlington, Peoria, Quincy,
AND ALL PARTS IN THE WEST AND SOUTH.
Figure 7

Building New Communities

Early Norwegian settlements appeared first in New York State and Illinois, but Wisconsin soon emerged as the first great center of Norwegian-American life. In Wisconsin - Muskego, Sugar Creek, and La Crosse became anchor points of community and culture. From there the story moves westward: into Iowa and Minnesota, and later into Dakota Territory. By the late 19th century, Norwegians dominated the geography of the northern plains. They filled young towns like

Sioux Falls and Brookings, and later many western states. By 1910, nearly 80 percent of all Norwegian Americans lived in the Upper Midwest: the Dakotas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa.

We find members of Marie's family in Dane County, Wisconsin, in Rock County and Minneapolis, Minnesota, and in Deuel County and Brookings County, South Dakota. Eventually we even see family members reaching the American West, such as Seattle and Spokane. Their movements match the great Norwegian migration pattern almost perfectly.

Life on the frontier was grueling but hopeful. Many settlers were young determined couples who willingly lived in tiny, crude homes in exchange for land and the chance to build their future. The Homestead Act, passed in 1862, drew them further west, and their determination forged communities under unforgiving skies.

Fear and Conflict

The early Norwegian immigrants contended with the violent history of the American frontier. Nowhere was this clearer than in the Dakota Conflict of 1862, when Dakota Sioux warriors, driven by hunger, injustice, and broken treaties, struck out against settlers in Minnesota. Panic swept the region; settlers fled, fortified towns, and lived under fear. The conflict scarred communities and slowed regional development for years.

Looking back at the Oakes' family history (John Fremstad married Hazel Oakes) when the Oakes and Cutlerites first found Otter Tail Lake in what was to become Clitherall, Minnesota, Jenny Whiting writes of remnants of these raids:

> *When we finally reached Otter Tail Lake, and I stood on the shore watching the rolling waves, it seemed as though we had reached the end of the world. At the north end of the lake I could see a dim mysterious looking forest, back of me was a row of log houses and north of those was an Indian burying ground. The houses were only empty shells and so filthy we could not even step inside. I suppose they had been built by white settlers before the raid and perhaps they had all been murdered by the savages. As I thought of their possible fate, I turned away shuddering.*

Work, Dignity, and Class

Norwegians occupied many places in the American economy. Some found land and stability; others formed the cheap labor backbone of a rapidly industrializing country. Some factories hired Norwegian boys, shipping them from Norway with the factory address written on a plate and tied around their neck so they would find their way.

When a Norwegian-American farm became prosperous enough to need laborers outside of the family, Norwegians still in Norway would be contracted to work the land for the price of passage. This gave the farmers a ready and inexpensive labor supply while allowing those wishing to emigrate a way to pay passage.

Women often worked as domestic servants to old-stock Yankee farms or households, learning American manners, household customs, and social values - often becoming some of the most effective transmitters of Americanization within their own immigrant families.

The Church: Anchor, Shield, and World

Amid hardship, the church became the heart of Norwegian immigrant life. This was no small role - it was everything: a place to worship, a social center, a community hall, a news exchange, and a support system. People gathered after services to share letters from Norway, find work, discuss farming, seek help, and find spouses. Norwegian Lutherans recreated in America what they had known in Norway: parish-based communities rooted in language, ritual, tradition, and authority. Multiple synods (the churches' governing body) developed, often divided by theology and practice, but over time they moved toward unity, ultimately merging into the broad American Lutheran institutions we know today.

Figure 8
Ringsaker Church - 1824

This strong church-centered life nurtured identity - but also limited integration into American society. Norwegian Lutherans remained distinct, morally strict, and culturally insulated well into the 20th century.

The places where Marie's family lived - Brookings County and Deuel County in South Dakota, and Williams County in North Dakota were all shaped by Norwegian Lutheran congregations. These churches helped stabilize immigrant families like Marie's and provided spiritual and social continuity in a new world.

Language and Identity

Language held Norwegian communities together. A vibrant bilingual world emerged: Norwegian at home, English to survive outside. The Norwegian spoken in America grew into a unique blend - older in form, mixed with English words and expressions, and sometimes mocked by visitors from Norway itself.

At its peak, more than a million people spoke Norwegian daily in the United States, and thousands of churches used it exclusively. Norwegian-American church records - baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and burials - were commonly written in Norwegian well into the early twentieth century, with many congregations not shifting fully to English until about the 1930s.

American nationalism during World War I accelerated language decline. Younger generations increasingly adopted English as their primary language, and with that shift went a powerful piece of cultural identity. What had once been a living community language slowly became a heritage language, remembered more than spoken.

Pride, Myth, and Perception

Not everyone admired the Norwegians who arrived in the American Midwest. A Lutheran minister traveling among Norwegian settlements in Wisconsin and Illinois in the 1840s and 1850s recorded that Americans sometimes referred to recent immigrants disparagingly as "Norwegian Indians." The phrase reflected nativist sentiment and prevailing stereotypes, implying that Norwegians were wild, uncivilized, and rough frontier peasants, likened to the era's distorted image of American Indians.

Over time, however, that image began to shift. Moral discipline, strong church life, and pietistic traditions reshaped public perception from wildness to respectability. At the same time, Norwegians actively built their own sense of identity through history and myth, celebrating Leif Erikson as the "first European" in America and invoking Viking heritage as evidence of courage, endurance, and worth. Constitution Day on 17 May became a symbolic anchor of memory and pride, a yearly reaffirmation that what had once been mocked as foreign was instead something to be preserved.

What is Lutefisk?

Lutefisk is a traditional Scandinavian dish made from dried whitefish, usually cod, that has been preserved and then rehydrated through a special process using lye. The fish is first dried, then soaked in water and a mild lye solution, which softens it and gives it a distinctive gelatinous texture. Afterward it is soaked again in fresh water to remove the lye before cooking. The finished fish is typically baked or steamed and served with simple foods such as boiled potatoes, peas, butter, bacon, or white sauce.

For many Norwegians, lutefisk was more than just a meal. It was part of a long tradition of food preservation in a harsh climate where fresh fish could not always be obtained in winter. Drying fish allowed coastal catches to be stored for months and transported inland. The preparation of lutefisk became closely tied to Christmas and winter gatherings, making it both a practical survival food and a cultural tradition. Norwegian immigrants carried this custom to America, where lutefisk dinners became a way for communities to maintain a connection to their homeland and heritage.

Becoming American

Gradually, Norwegian Americans integrated fully into American life. Churches dropped the word "Norwegian" from their names. Synods merged across ethnic lines. English replaced Norwegian. Theology adapted to American trends. Ethnic boundaries softened, and social networks widened beyond the old community walls.

By the mid-20th century, Norwegians were no longer a distinct immigrant colony. They had helped build the American Midwest, preserved community through hardship, contributed strongly to moral reform movements, endured prejudice, and finally transformed into a deeply American people. Their story is one of endurance, faith, contradiction, belonging, and adaptation - a

testament to how a small northern nation left a permanent imprint on the American landscape, and how those who once arrived as outsiders became part of the fabric of the United States.

It is within this movement that the story of Marie Kristiansdatter and her family belongs. Their lives, struggles, movements from Norway to Wisconsin, to Minnesota, to South Dakota, and beyond, place them firmly inside this remarkable chapter of Norwegian and American history.

The Principal Characters

The history that follows is centered around a Norwegian woman named Marie Kristiansdatter, born in 1852 in Ringsaker parish, Hedmark, Norway. She lived at the heart of this story, and through her life and relationships three branches of this family were formed. Around her are several key figures whose lives helped shape the destiny of their children and the course of this family's journey from Norway to America.

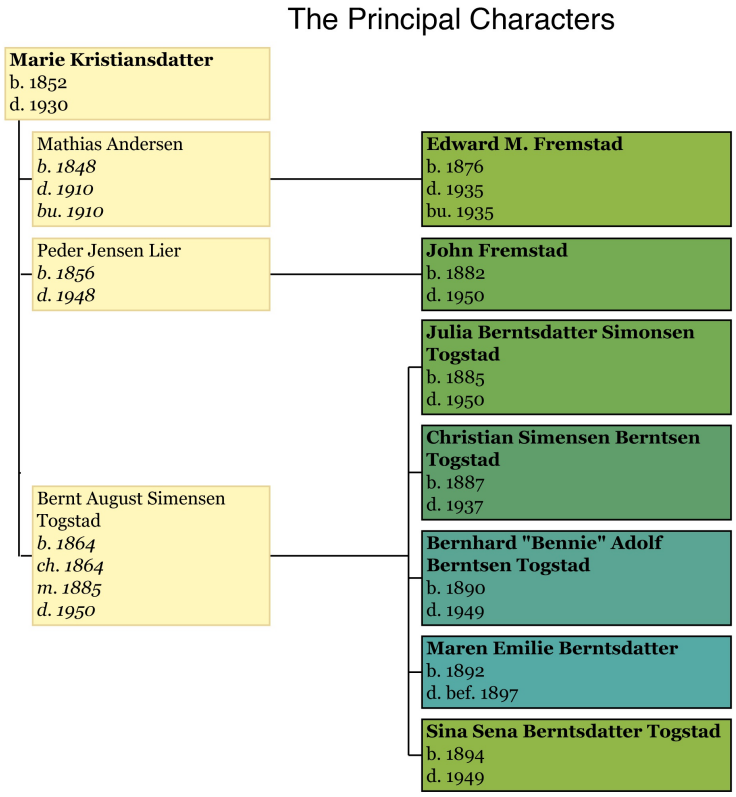


Figure 9

Marie Kristiansdatter

Marie's life began in rural Norway, in a farming culture where identity was tied to land, parish, and family. She was born to Christian Larsen and Eli Eriksdatter, and raised in a world that expected women to work hard, accept hardship, and live closely within community limits.

Marie's life did not follow these social expectations. She formed relationships that were sometimes complicated and carried social risk in Norwegian society. She raised children linked to different fathers. Through these choices and circumstances she held together a family that would eventually cross the ocean and help shape communities in America. Marie's story is one of resilience, survival, and strength. Her children would carry her life forward into a new world.

Mathias Andersen

One of the important men in Marie's life was Mathias Andersen. Their relationship resulted in the birth of Even Mathiassen, later known as Edward Fremstad. Mathias represents one of the earliest threads in Marie's complicated story. Through him, the records draw in the Mengshoel and Mathiassen names that anchor this branch of the family firmly in rural Norway. Through his son, that rooted Norwegian line would eventually extend across the Atlantic and take hold in the American Midwest. Mathias himself belongs to the part of the story that remained in Norway, but his child carried that story forward into the New World.

Peder Jensen Lier

Another significant figure in Marie's life was Peder Jensen, later known in America by the farm name Lier. His connection with Marie belongs to the years before her own emigration, and together they had a son, Johan, who would later become known as John Fremstad. Peder represents the world Marie inhabited just before her life turned westward. Unlike Mathias, he crossed the Atlantic early and became part of the first great Norwegian settlement stream into the United States. He remained tied to those early immigrant communities for the rest of his life and eventually died in Dane County, Wisconsin, one of the earliest and strongest centers of Norwegian settlement in America.

Bernt August Simensen Togstad

The most lasting and stable relationship in Marie's life was with Bernt August Simensen Togstad, whom she married in Ottestad in 1885. With Bernt, Marie built a household, and a life that would endure. Together they had 5 children, and it is this Togstad branch that becomes most visible in both Norwegian parish records and later American records. Bernt represents commitment, family structure, and the building of a new life that would eventually extend far beyond Norway. Through him, the Togstad name becomes part of the enduring identity of this family line.

The Children

The true legacy of these principal characters can be seen most clearly in their children. These sons and daughters bridged the gap between old Norway and new America. They carried their Norwegian roots into new communities, built families, and helped shape the regions where they settled.

Edward Fremstad, born *Even Mathiassen*, son of Marie and Mathias. Born in 1876, he became part of the Norwegian movement into Minnesota, with strong ties to Luverne in Rock County, Iowa. His life represents another expression of the Norwegian immigrant journey. He lived with the memory of Norway but built a life in an American landscape.

John Fremstad, born *Johan Pedersen*, son of Marie and Peder. Born in Ringsaker in 1882, he lived through the transition from Norwegian farm child to American resident. He would eventually reach the American West and die in Spokane, Washington, leaving descendants who carried his name and heritage far from the land of his birth.

The **children of Marie and Bernt Togstad** form the most stable family group in this story. They lived together in Norway, emigrated together, and then spent the rest of their lives near one another.

These were

Julia Togstad
Christian Togstad
Bernhard "Bennie" Togstad
Maren Emilie Berntsen
Sina Togstad

Through these children, the family story spreads into Minneapolis, Brookings County, Deuel County, and surrounding regions in South Dakota and Minnesota. They built homes, worked land, joined Norwegian Lutheran communities, raised children of their own, and became part of the American story. Each of them stands as a living bridge between Marie's Norwegian world and the American future that followed.

Geography

To understand the people in this story, it helps to know the places that shaped them. Geography mattered deeply in Norway. It determined how people lived, what work they did, how communities formed, and how identity was understood. Norway itself was a large country in land area, roughly comparable in size to the American state of Montana, yet in 1850 it had a population of only about 1.4 million people. The world of Marie was centered in Hedmark, especially the parishes of Ringsaker, Stange, Nes, Ottestad, and Vardal. These communities stood in the fertile agricultural region along Lake Mjøsa, Norway's largest inland lake. This region was beautiful and productive, but it demanded steady work, discipline, and close community life. People depended on one another, and everyone knew each other's business.

Figure 10
Hedmark Fylke

Parishes, Municipalities, and Farms

It is helpful to know how Norway was organized politically and geographically during the time of Marie. Hedmark was a large regional administrative unit, called a **fylke**, roughly comparable to an American county.

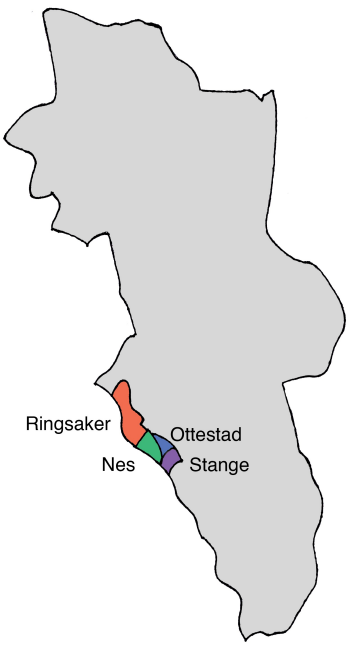
Within Hedmark were smaller local governments known as **municipal districts** (kommuner), which handled matters such as taxation, censuses, and local administration. Ringsaker, Nes, and Stange were such municipalities, encompassing broad rural districts made up of farms, cottages, and small communities.

Alongside the civil system existed a parallel church system of **parishes** (sokn). Parishes were responsible for baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and burials, and most genealogical records were created at this level. Parish boundaries often overlapped with municipal districts, but not always exactly.

In 2020, Hedmark Fylke merged with Oppland Fylke to become Innlandet Fylke.

Farms and Farm Names

Norwegian life in the 1800s revolved around farms and church parishes. Farms were far more than simple plots of land. They were centers of family life, places of work, markers of identity, and small social communities. Children grew up laboring alongside their parents, and generations often remained tied to the same land for decades. The parish church bound these farms together, serving as the setting for baptism, confirmation, marriage, and burial. Much of what we know today about Marie and her family survives because parish pastors carefully recorded these events in the church books that still preserve their lives.



Key Parishes of Hedmark

Figure 11

Nearly every Norwegian farm (gård), carried its own name, and those names often reflected location, landscape, or origin. Some described condition, such as Ødegård, meaning a deserted or reclaimed farm. Others reflected ownership or clearing, such as Jonsrud, meaning "Jon's clearing."

Many incorporated directional or geographic elements: Østerdal means "eastern valley." **The suffix -eie**, meaning "property of" or "belonging to," typically identified a husmann's place, a small cottage holding attached to a larger farm. A name such as Mengshoeleie, for example, indicates a tenant place belonging to the Mengshoel farm. You will see the -eie suffix mentioned often.

Patronymics and Farm Names

Instead of permanent surnames, Norwegians often used patronymic names and farm names. A man named Kristian might have a daughter called Kristiansdatter (Kristian's daughter), or a son named Kristiansen (Kristian's son). If that family lived on the Togstad farm, they might be referred to as "Togstad" in records. If they later moved to the Fremstad farm, their name in church books might appear as "Fremstad." Names followed farms, not only families. Frequently Mathias Andersen is found in records as Mathias Andersen Mengshoeleie.

Researching Norwegian genealogy presents unique challenges because surnames were not fixed family names but descriptive labels that changed between generations. Most people used patronymics formed from their father's given name, so surnames often changed with each generation. As a result, one person may appear under several different names in records, while

many unrelated people may share the same name. This system requires researchers to follow individuals through places, relationships, and life events rather than relying on surnames alone, making Norwegian genealogy complex.

The Norwegian naming methodology becomes especially important when the story reaches America. Norwegian immigrants often needed a fixed last name, something American society expected. Many chose to keep the farm name as their new family surname. That is why descendants of this family in America carried names such as Fremstad or Togstad permanently, even long after the original farm in Norway may only be a memory.

The Norwegian Name Act of 1923

The Norwegian Name Act of 1923 established fixed hereditary surnames in Norway. Each family was required to adopt a single permanent family name that would pass unchanged from one generation to the next. Children took their father's surname, and a wife normally adopted her husband's name. The law effectively ended the traditional patronymic system in which surnames changed each generation. Earlier records were not altered. The law did not retroactively rename people in historical documents. Instead, it determined what surname the family would use from that point forward, especially for children born afterward.

Important Locations

Several geographic names in this history are especially important.

Lake Mjøsa, Norway's largest inland lake, was the economic and transportation center of the inland districts of eastern Norway. The fertile agricultural lands surrounding the lake, especially in areas such as Ringsaker, Stange, and Nes, produced much of the grain and farm goods that supplied the growing capital of Christiania. Before railroads reached the region, the lake functioned as a natural highway linking inland farms with southern markets through boat traffic and steamships. Communities clustered along its shores because the lake provided transportation, fishing, fertile soil, and a meeting place for trade and communication. For families living in the Hedmark parishes, Lake Mjøsa was not simply a geographic feature but the central artery of daily life, shaping farming, commerce, and travel throughout the region.

Ringsaker is one of the central locations in this story. It is where Marie was born and where several of her children began life. Ringsaker was a stable, deeply Norwegian farming community, rooted in tradition and tied strongly to church and land.

Nes is directly south of Ringsaker. Nes, especially along the shared border with Ringsaker was frequented by Marie, Mathias, and Peder. All three were born in this area. Ed and John Fremstad were most likely born in this region as well.

Stange and **Ottestad** are key places also. These parishes sit south of Ringsaker along the same agricultural corridor. They provided the setting for part of Marie's later life and for her marriage to Bernt August Simensen Togstad in 1885. These parishes formed the social and religious environment that shaped the Togstad family before they began to appear in American records.

Vardal appears in connection with the birth of Even Mathiassen / Edward Fremstad, linking this story to another part of inland Norway. Together, these places show that Marie's world was not

confined to a single village. She and the people connected to her belonged to a network of neighboring Norwegian communities.

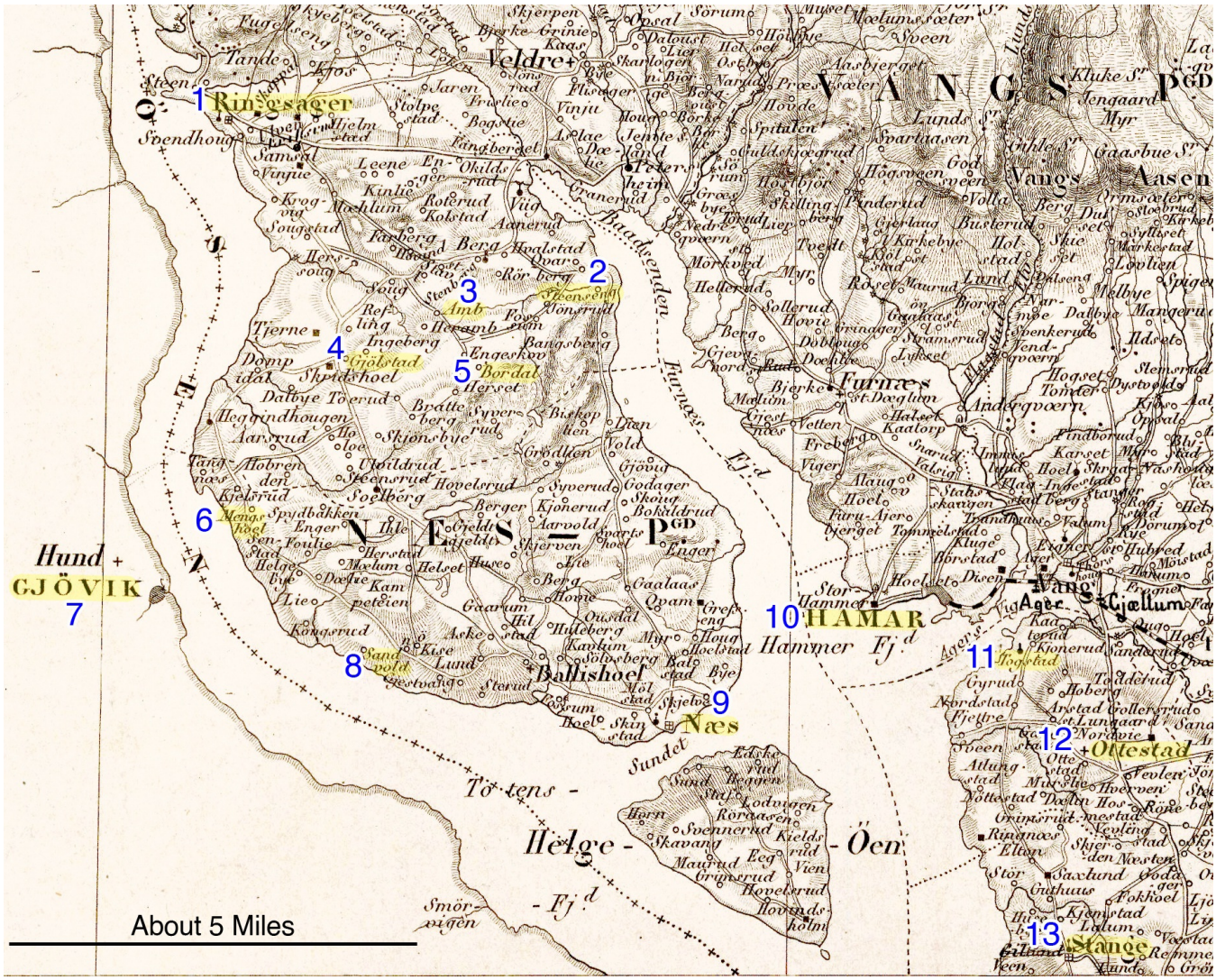


Figure 12
Ringsaker/Nes/Stange Region

1. Ringsaker
2. Steenseng - John Fremstad Birth
3. Amb - Peder Jensen Birth
4. Gjolstad - Marie Kristiansdatter Birth
5. Bordal - Peder Jensen, 1865 Census
6. Mengshoel - Mathias & Edward Fremstad Birth
7. Gjøvik, Hund, Vardal - Edward Fremstad Baptism
8. Sandvold - Bernhard Togstad Birth
9. Nes
10. Hamar
11. Togstad - Maren & Sina Birth
12. Ottestad - Bernt Simensen Birth

Two farm names stand out strongly in this genealogy. **Fremstad** is important because it becomes an enduring identity, especially in America through John and Edward's descendants. **Togstad** is equally important, connecting directly to Marie's married life with Bernt and the children they

raised together. **Mengshoel**, **Lier**, and other farms appear in the background, reminding us that Norwegian lives moved across farms as circumstances changed.

The Location of the Fremstad and Togstad Farms

When Marie's family came to America, they took on new names based on farms. Even Mathiassen became Edward Fremstad and Johan Pedersen became John Fremstad. The rest of the family took the last name of Togstad.

Fremstad Farm

Edward most likely adopted the surname Fremstad from a farm where he once worked or lived, following the common Norwegian practice of the period. According to the Norwegian Farm Names database, three farms carried the name Fremstad, but only two lie within the geographic range relevant to Edward's life: one in Nes and one in Biri, which borders Vardal.

No surviving records place Edward living with either of his parents or clearly associate him with a specific household during the years when the surname first appears. Because of this, it is not possible to confidently identify which Fremstad farm he was connected to. The precise location of the Fremstad farm in Biri is uncertain, while the Fremstad farm in Nes is still in existence today. At present, the evidence does not allow one to be favored over the other.

Togstad Farm

When Maren Emilie and Sina were born, their birth records state that their parents' residence was Tokstadeie, a cottage at the Tokstad farm. In later usage, this farm name appears in the more modern form Togstad, though the historical records use Tokstad. Both girls were baptized in the Ottestad parish of Stange, indicating that Tokstadeie lay within that parish district.

Local farm history supports this location. According to lokalhistoriewiki.no, a Tokstad/Togstad farm lies northwest of Ottestad in Stange, and the farm remains in existence today. This places the family at the time of Maren's and Sina's births in the same small farm corridor south of Lake Mjøsa where Marie and Bernt were then moving from place to place.

A Landscape That Shaped Lives

In the late 1800s, Marie's family lived in a landscape of working farms, open fields, and long winters that often stretched well into spring. Summer brought demanding labor that required every available hand. Church life structured the community, marking time, gathering families, and anchoring social life. Roads linked neighboring parishes, and Lake Mjøsa served as an important route for travel and trade. These surroundings shaped people accustomed to hard work, cooperation, and endurance.

When members of this family eventually left Norway, they were not leaving an unknown place. They were leaving familiar hillsides, farmyards, neighbors they had grown up with, and parishes

where they attended church. When later generations in America spoke of "being Norwegian," this landscape is what they were remembering.

The geography of Ringsaker, Stange, Vardal, and the farms tied to those communities gave our family identity before America gave opportunity.

Geography of the Dakotas: The Open Plains of the Prairie

North Dakota and South Dakota, originally just Dakota, lay at the center of the northern Great Plains, far from the coasts and far from the older cities of the East. In the late 1800s, this region was still newly settled, thinly populated, and defined by distance. Towns were small and widely spaced. Farms stretched outward in every direction. Travel took time and effort, whether by wagon, rail, or later by rough roads. For immigrants arriving from Europe or from older American states, the Dakotas felt open in a way few places did. The land seemed to have no natural end.

Scale shaped everything. Horizons were wide. Skies were dominant. Wind was constant. The absence of forests or hills in many areas meant little shelter from weather and few visual boundaries. Geography here was not scenery. It governed how people lived, how they worked, how far they traveled for supplies, and how often they saw neighbors. Life in the Dakotas required adjustment to space itself. Families learned to measure distance in hours rather than miles, to prepare for isolation as part of normal living, and to understand the land as both opportunity and challenge.

Climate and weather shaped daily life in the Dakotas more forcefully than most immigrants expected. Winters were longer, colder, and more exposed than in inland Norway, with fierce winds, sudden blizzards, and stretches of subzero temperatures that could isolate farms for days. Summers brought intense heat, powerful storms, and periodic droughts that could undo an entire season's work.

Farming in the Dakotas was shaped by space. Land

The Togstads and the World of *Little House on the Prairie*

For many modern readers, the most familiar picture of early life on the Dakota plains comes from Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little House on the Prairie books. The Ingalls family lived primarily near De Smet in Kingsbury County, which lies about 70 miles southwest of Deuel County. Although not immediate neighbors, the two areas sat within the same broad stretch of eastern South Dakota prairie. The land was similarly open and treeless. The climate was the same. The rhythms of farming, isolation, and weather shaped daily life in much the same way.

The Togstads' lives in rural Deuel County would have echoed many of the scenes readers recognize from Wilder's stories. Open grassland stretched to the horizon. Farms were widely spaced. Small towns and rail depots served as lifelines. Winters could cut families off from supplies and neighbors. Spring brought mud and uncertainty. Summer demanded relentless physical labor. Fall meant harvest and urgent preparation for cold. Children were expected to work. Neighbors mattered because help might be miles away. What the Little House books present through the eyes of a child, the Togstads lived as adults responsible for land, livestock, income, and survival.

For descendants today, the comparison offers a bridge of understanding. The Togstads did not live in the exact place described in the books, yet they lived in the same environmental world. Sparse population, exposure to extreme weather, limited services, and heavy dependence on family labor defined their rural experience. Reading Little House on the Prairie provides a familiar lens through which to imagine what life was like for the Togstads as they built their lives on a vast and demanding prairie landscape.

was abundant, fields were large, and farms spread outward rather than upward. Wheat dominated much of the region, supported by soil that was fertile but heavily dependent on rainfall. Unlike older farming districts, the Dakotas developed quickly into a system of commercial agriculture. Farms were organized around production for market rather than subsistence. Machinery appeared early. Work followed the scale of the land: long straight fields, heavy seasonal labor, and intense bursts of activity at planting and harvest. Success depended less on diversity than on yield. A single dry summer or early frost could erase a year's income.

When families from the Ringsaker area arrived in the Dakotas, they entered a farming world that felt both promising and dangerous. The prairie offered space they had never known, but it also demanded dependence on one kind of success. Farming shifted from careful management of a bounded landscape to a broad wager on weather, markets, and the land itself.

Figure 13

Geography in the Dakotas did not merely provide a setting for family life. It actively shaped it. The availability of land drew families in, offering independence and the possibility of ownership that had been limited in Norway. At the same time, the vastness of the region, the severity of the climate, and the volatility of prairie farming created pressures that touched nearly every household. Work was seasonal and physically demanding. Income rose and fell with weather and markets. Isolation intensified both self-reliance and vulnerability.

These conditions shaped when families moved, how they worked, and how they endured illness, loss, and economic hardship. For many, geography influenced not only where they lived, but how long they remained and when the land itself redirected their lives.

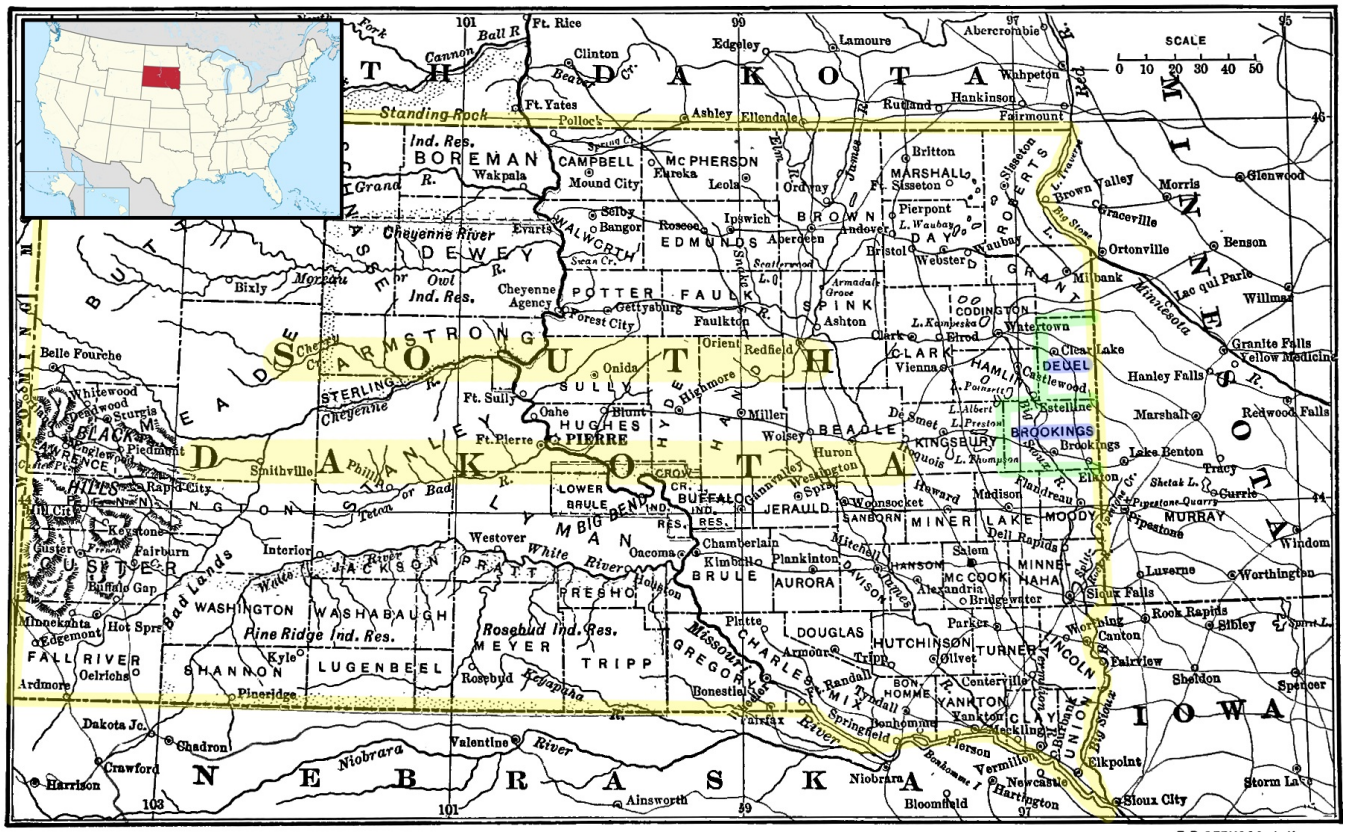


Figure 14
Location of Deuel and Brookings Counties in South Dakota

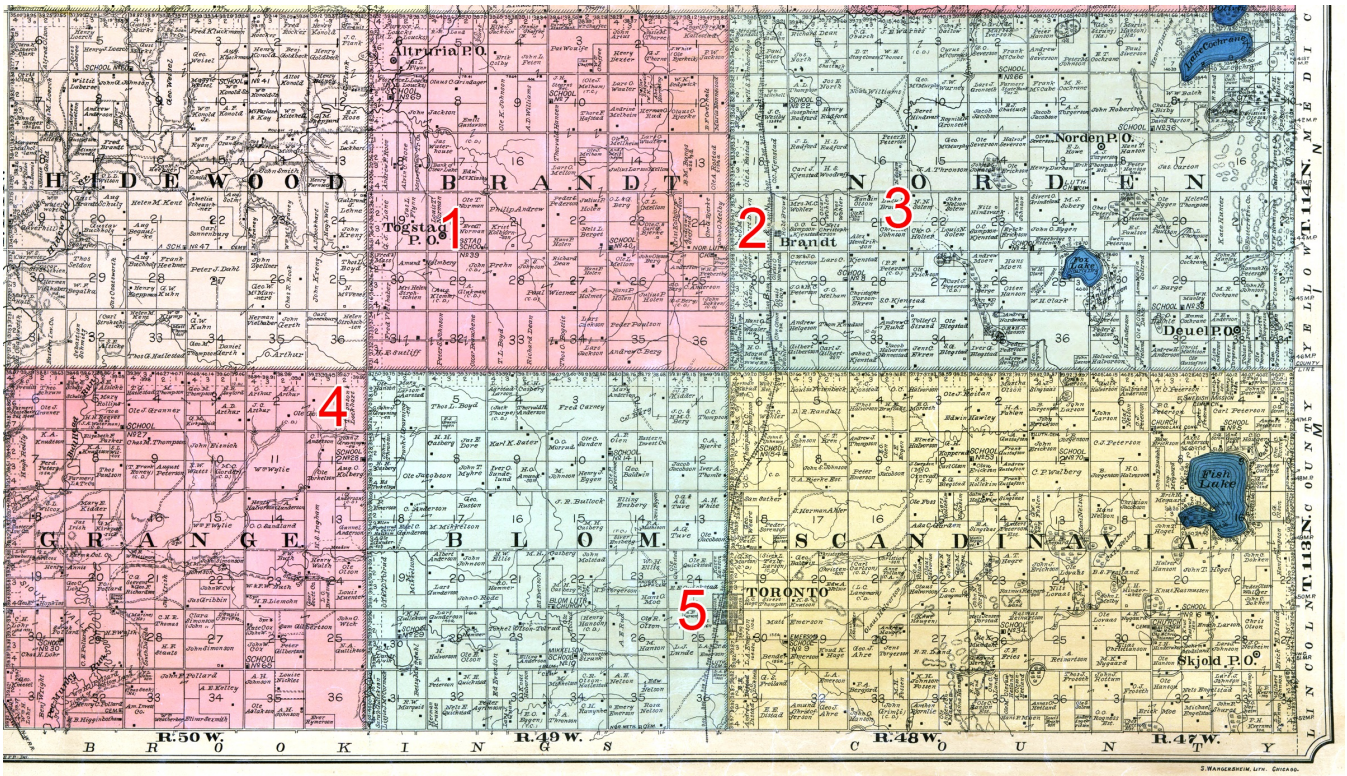


Figure 15
Select Townships in Deuel County

1. Togstad Post Office: Established 1879 with Even Tokstad Norman as postmaster. He immigrated 1878 to America from Tokstad, Ringsaker, Norway and named the post office for himself and his home in Norway. Discontinued 1904. There is no known connection between him and Marie or Brent's family.
2. Town of Brandt.
3. Nicolis Solem's property, in sections 16 & 22. Nicolis was John Fremstad's employer during 1900 Census.
4. Section 1 of the Grange Township is the probable location of Togstads' homestead when they were in Grange.
5. Town of Toronto.

Marie Kristiansdatter's Story

The story of Marie and her family unfolds across time and distance, moving from the quiet fields of Norway to the busy towns and open plains of America. At the center of it is **Marie Kristiansdatter, born in 3 Oct 1852 in Ringsaker, Hedmark** (see Baptism Record, Figure 58). She was born at Gjølstadeie, a cottage on the Gjølstad farm. Gjølstad was located in the Nes Parish, south of the town of Ringsaker. She was baptized a few weeks later, 31 Oct 1852, at the Ringsaker Church.

Figure 16
Gjølstad Farm, about 1956

Marie's Childhood

Marie grew up in a traditional Norwegian farming world where community expectations were strong, work was constant, and the church shaped daily life. She was the daughter of Christian Larsen and Eli Eriksdatter, and like most Norwegian children of her time, she most likely worked from a young age, learning responsibilities that prepared her for adulthood in a demanding environment.

In rural Norway in the mid-1800s, childhood was brief and closely tied to work. From an early age, children were part of the farm economy as necessary labor. They carried water, gathered firewood, watched younger siblings, herded animals, and ran errands between farms. By about 8 or 9, most were given regular responsibilities, including tending livestock on summer pastures, planting and harvesting potatoes, and helping with haymaking.

Schooling existed, but it was limited and often secondary to farm demands. The census entries for Marie indicate that she could read and write, suggesting that she likely received at least some schooling. Religious instruction, especially preparation for confirmation, dominated what formal education there was. Play occurred alongside work rather than apart from it. Children grew up immersed in adult routines, learning early that contribution and endurance were expected parts of daily life.

Farm life in Ringsaker in the 1850s followed the rhythm of the seasons. Spring brought plowing and repairs after long winters. Summer was dominated by haymaking, urgent labor that determined whether livestock would survive the coming cold. Entire households worked from early morning until late evening cutting, drying, and stacking grass. Cows, goats, and sheep supplied milk, butter, cheese, wool, and meat, while barley, oats, and potatoes formed the core of the diet. Labor was constant and rarely specialized. Men, women, and children all worked, their

tasks shifting mainly with age.

Social life was inseparable from farm and parish. Many families did not own land but lived as cotters or servants on larger farms, exchanging labor for food, shelter, and small wages. The Lutheran church shaped both belief and routine. Baptisms, confirmations, and holy days marked the year, and the pastor served as spiritual authority, teacher, and record keeper. Life in Ringsaker was not romantic, but it was tightly interconnected. Families relied on neighbors at harvest, on shared resources, and in times of illness or death. In such a world, security was fragile and inheritance uncertain. For many young people, the future lay not in acquiring land, but in leaving it.

Marie was confirmed 18 Oct 1868 at the age of 16 (see Confirmation Record, Figure 59). In mid 19th century Norway, confirmation was not simply a religious ceremony, but a legal and social gateway into adult life. Lutheranism was the state religion, and all citizens were required to belong to the Lutheran Church, which functioned as both a spiritual authority and a civil institution.

Confirmation certified that a young person could read, understood the catechism, and was prepared to live as a morally responsible member of society. Without confirmation, an individual could not legally marry, serve as a godparent, enter most forms of employment, or move freely from one household to another.

Employers expected servants and farm laborers to be confirmed, and parish priests maintained registers that effectively regulated who was permitted to work, travel, or establish a household. For rural families, confirmation therefore marked the moment when a child became a worker, a potential spouse, and a recognized participant in the community. It functioned as both a spiritual examination and a civil credential, binding faith, literacy, and social order tightly together.

Life as a Young Adult

After her confirmation in 1868, Marie would have stepped fully into the adult world. In rural Norway, this transition was immediate. Confirmation ended childhood. From that point forward, she was expected to earn her keep, obey the moral discipline of the parish, and begin the path toward marriage and household formation.

For most young women in Ringsaker during this period, adult life did not mean independence. It meant entering service. Farms depended heavily on unmarried young people who hired themselves out year by year as milkmaids, household workers, or general farm servants. These positions provided food, lodging, and a small wage, and they were the most common way a young woman supported herself between confirmation and marriage.

A single woman working on a farm lived a physically demanding life. Her days began early, often before dawn, and were shaped by both the household and the barn. She would have milked cows, churned butter, cleaned stalls, carried water, cooked meals, washed clothes, tended children, and helped in the fields during planting and haying seasons.

Women's labor was constant rather than seasonal. Even in winter, work filled the day: spinning, mending, preserving food, and feeding animals. Privacy was rare. Servant women usually slept in shared lofts or small side rooms, and their lives were fully visible to the household they served. Reputation mattered deeply. A woman's diligence, modesty, and obedience were closely watched by both employers and the wider parish community.

Whether Marie would have remained at home during these seven years depends on her family's circumstances, but in much of rural Hedmark, it was more common for confirmed daughters to leave home and work as servants on other farms. Doing so reduced the economic burden on parents, built a small personal savings, and widened social networks.

Many young women moved from farm to farm every year or two, following hiring days and informal agreements made at church or local gatherings. Remaining at home usually happened only if a family had sufficient resources or urgently needed a daughter's labor. Even then, the work performed at home was essentially the same as that done in service elsewhere.

Socially, this stage of life was a narrow corridor between childhood and marriage. Courting occurred quietly and under watchful eyes, often during church gatherings, seasonal work, or visits between neighboring farms. Sexual morality was strongly policed by the Lutheran church and by community custom, yet relationships did form, and pregnancies outside marriage were far from unknown.

For a woman like Marie, these seven years would have been marked by hard labor, limited personal freedom, close supervision, and an unspoken expectation that she would eventually form a household of her own. The world she lived in offered little privacy, little leisure, and few protections, but it was also the environment in which young women built skills, reputations, and the fragile independence that came with wages and experience.

The years that followed Marie's confirmation unfolded quietly, marked less by recorded events than by steady labor and gradual change. She moved fully into the adult world of farm service, long days, and close-knit rural communities, building both skills and reputation in the households where she worked. It was within this ordinary rhythm of work, church, and seasonal life that her path eventually crossed with Mathias Andersen.

Their meeting did not come from any dramatic circumstance, but from the small, repeated intersections of rural society, where young people encountered one another in shared labor, neighboring farms, and parish life. From that familiar world would come an unfamiliar turning point, one that reshaped Marie's future and introduced the first of her children.

Marie and Mathias Andersen - A Turning Point

Mathias Andersen was born on 26 Feb 1848 at Mengshoeleie in Nes, Hedmark, a cotter's place under the Mengshoel farm, placing him firmly within the landless rural class of mid-nineteenth-century Norway. Like most boys of his social position, Mathias would have grown up immersed in farm labor from early childhood, contributing to the household economy long

before he reached adolescence.

In the 1865 census, he was 17, living in Nes, Hedmark, listed as an unmarried son in his father's household, a status that suggests both continued economic dependence and preparation for the itinerant working life common to young rural men. He was working on the Mengshoel farm, where he would remain most of his life. His early years thus unfolded within the tightly ordered world of cotter families, parish oversight, and seasonal agricultural labor that defined the communities around Lake Mjøsa.

By the early 1870s, Mathias Andersen had moved beyond childhood and into the unsettled years of young adulthood that defined the lives of landless rural men. His world was one of hired labor, and long days shaped by the demands of other people's land. Like many young men of his class, he left few direct traces during these years beyond brief census entries and parish notations. It was within this network of farms, parishes, and shared work that Mathias's path eventually crossed with Marie Kristiansdatter.

How Mathias and Marie first came to know one another is unknown. Their meeting likely grew from the ordinary closeness of rural society, where young people encountered one another through shared work, neighboring farms, and parish life. From that unremarked beginning came a lasting consequence: the conception and birth of Even, a child that would bind their lives together and redirect the course of their futures.

Birth of Even Mathiassen (Edward Fremstad)

Even Mathiassen was **born on 20 Apr 1876**, most likely at Mengshoel farm in Nes, Hedmark, where Mathias Andersen's family roots lay, and where Marie Kristiansdatter appears to have been living at the time. He was born out of wedlock, a circumstance that in rural Norway carried social stigma and practical consequence, particularly for a young unmarried woman.

A note in his brother Johan's baptismal record states that Even was baptized at home in Nes, suggesting that his birth initially took place there. His official baptism entry records that the baptism occurred on 5 Jun 1876 and appears in the Hunn parish register. Hunn was in the Vardal municipality near the town of Gjøvik. At the time of his baptism, he was not in Nes, but in Vardal.

Illegitimacy and Social Stigma

Norway was a Lutheran state church society. Sexual relations outside marriage were officially condemned, and births out of wedlock were recorded clearly in parish registers. When an unmarried woman had a child, she was normally required to appear before the pastor and make a public or semi-public acknowledgment of her conduct. This could involve confession, admonition, or church discipline. The birth would be entered in the church book with wording that explicitly identified it as illegitimate, and in many cases noted how many "leiermål" (out-of-wedlock births) each parent had. This meant the event followed her permanently in the records which is seen in Edward and John's records.

In later years, Edward would say that he was born in Vardal. Whether this reflects what he was told as a child, a natural association with the place where his baptism was recorded, or an inaccuracy in memory or record keeping is impossible to

know. What can be said with certainty is that Vardal was part of Even's earliest story. His life, as it entered the official record and as it was later remembered, began there.

Nothing further is known of Even's childhood until his emigration in 1887, when he left Norway at the age of 11. The records are silent on where he lived during those intervening years. Did he remain with his mother, enter the household of a godparent, or move between farms as so many children of his circumstances did?

His father, Mathias, was married and begun a new family, making it unlikely that Even grew up in Mathias's household. The fact that Marie and her infant son appear to have gone to Vardal shortly after his birth, while Mathias remained behind, further suggests that Even did not spend his early years with his father. What is known is that Even maintained a relationship with Marie in later life, indicating that she remained a presence to him. Whether he lived continuously with her or only intermittently, it seems likely that his earliest sense of family was shaped more by his mother than by his father.

Nothing further is known of Marie during the years that followed. There are no records again until she next appears in connection with Peder Jensen. Like many young working-class women of the period, she likely moved between farms or households, working as a servant or laborer, but no documents have yet been found that trace her movements or circumstances in this interval.

Marie and Peder Jensen

Peder Jensen was **born on 22 Dec 1856** in Ringsaker, Hedmark. He was born on the East Amb farm. He entered the world as the son of rural Norway's working class, in a community where most families lived directly from the land and where identity was tied more to farm and parish than to permanent surnames.

His early childhood would have unfolded within a tightly ordered life: long winters centered on animals and household labor, and short summers filled with fieldwork, haymaking, and food production. Like most boys of his background, Peder would have been drawn into daily work almost as soon as he was able, learning his place within a household economy that depended on every pair of hands.

In the 1865 census, he appeared as an unmarried laborer in Ringsaker on the West Amb farm. He was only 10 and working at the farm without his parents. In 1875 he had moved to the Børdal farm not far from West Amb. Here he was working as a servant boy, a common path for young men without land of their own. This was a life defined by mobility, moving from farm to farm on yearly contracts, exchanging labor for food, lodging, and modest wages.

By 1881, he was working at the Stenseng farm in Ringsaker, likely his last place of residence before leaving Norway. These scattered references suggest a young man circulating within the rural labor network, embedded in the everyday world of hired work, parish life, and close-knit farming communities.

It was while at Stenseng that Peder's path crossed with that of Marie Kristiansdatter. Family lore holds that Marie made pastries and traveled from farm to farm, selling them, and that it was through this work that she met Peder Jensen. Their meeting left no trace in the written record, yet it almost certainly grew out of the ordinary interactions of rural life: shared labor, neighboring farms, and the constant movement of people between farms and households.

From that unrecorded connection came a defining event. Marie gave birth to Johan, Peder's son. The child's arrival bound their lives together. Johan's birth placed Peder at a turning point between his years as an unmarried farm laborer in Ringsaker and the decision, made almost immediately afterward, to leave Norway behind and go to America.

Birth of Johan Pedersen (John Fremstad)

Johan Pedersen was **born on 26 Mar 1882** on the Stenseng farm in Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway, the son of Marie Kristiansdatter and Peder Jensen. His earliest months unfolded within the rural world of Ringsaker, among farms, cotter places, and closely connected households. By the time of his baptism, his father had already left Norway for America, placing Johan's earliest years firmly within a maternal household shaped by work, and movement between farms.

Johan's childhood appears to have been one of transition rather than stability. In 1885, when Johan was 3, Marie married Bernt August Simensen Togstad, and Johan grew up within that household as Bernt's stepson.

In the 1891 census, Johan is living with his mother and stepfather in Nes, Hedmark, at a rural residence named Sveen, alongside younger half-siblings. His daily life would have been that of a farm child: tending animals, running errands, helping with fieldwork, and absorbing the routines of a working agricultural household. Schooling, church instruction, and preparation for confirmation would have been interwoven with labor, shaping his world long before he reached adolescence.

At the age of 11, Johan's life took a decisive turn: He followed his brother, Even, to America.

Marie and Bernt - The Togstad Family

By the mid-1880s, Marie Kristiansdatter's life entered a new and more settled phase when she met Bernt Simensen, who came from Ottestad parish in the Stange municipal area.

It is not known how Marie and Bernt first became acquainted. Marie's last known residence before their marriage was Stenseng farm in Ringsaker, while Bernt was from Ottestad, about 11 miles away, with Lake Mjøsa lying partly between them. Their connection therefore points to movement beyond a single parish, shaped by work, church life, or the informal rural networks that linked farms and communities across the district.

On **15 Jun 1885, she married Bernt August Simensen Togstad** in Ottestad, Stange, Hedmark, formally establishing a household after years marked by uncertainty, labor, and single

motherhood (see Marriage Record, Figure 60). She was 11 years his senior. With this marriage, Marie brought her young son Johan into a new family structure, one that would soon grow both in size and in complexity.

Bernt August Simensen (Togstad) had been **born on 10 May 1864** in Ottestad, Stange. He came from the same rural working world as Marie, raised within a culture of farm labor, small holdings, and hired service.

By 1875, Bernt was living at Hestehagen place (a cottage) on the Todderud farm in Ottestad, Stange with his parents. He was the son of Simen Nielssen who was a day laborer there and also worked a small plot of land.

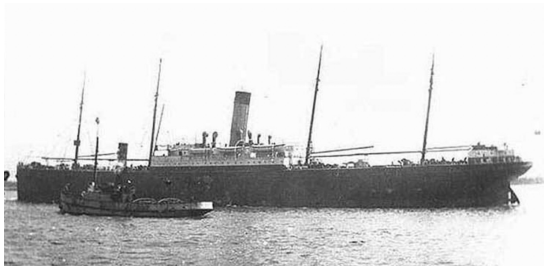
After their marriage, Marie and Bernt established their family life mostly in the agricultural district of Stange. Their first child together, **Julia**, was born on 8 Nov 1885 in Stange. The following year brought another child, **Christian**, born on 6 Sep 1887 also in Stange.

By the time Bernhard "**Bennie**" Adolf was born on 25 Mar 1890, the family had relocated back across Lake Mjøsa to the Nes parish. At the time of his birth, they were living at a farm called Sandvold, within the Nes district. This farm is believed to have been located near Stavsjø, where Bennie was later baptized, placing his earliest days within the familiar landscape of small farms, parish ties, and the lakeside communities of southern Hedmark.

In 1891 (see 1891 Norway Census, Figure 61), the family was still living in Nes at a rural residence called Sveen. The household included Marie, Bernt, Johan, and their growing children, reflecting a blended family rooted in the everyday demands of farm life.

Two years later the family was back in Ottestad at the Togstad farm when, on 25 Mar 1892, **Maren** Emilie Berntsdatter was born, though her life was brief, living only to barely 1 year of age. Their youngest daughter, **Sina**, was born on 26 Apr 1894 also in Ottestad at the Togstad farm.

Sinking of The *Titanic*



SS California Arriving in Port

The steamship originally launched as the *State of California* was later renamed the *Californian*, a name under which it became permanently linked to one of the most famous maritime disasters in history. On the night of 14 Apr 1912, the *Californian* was in the vicinity of the *Titanic* when the great liner struck an iceberg. Members of the *Californian's* crew observed rockets fired from the direction of the *Titanic*, signals that were later understood to be distress flares. The ship did not respond in time, and after the sinking, official investigations concluded that the *Californian* had been close enough that it might have rendered assistance had action been taken. As a result, the vessel that once carried emigrants across the Atlantic became known not for migration, but for its controversial proximity to tragedy.

By the mid-1890s, Marie had given birth to five children within nine years, in addition to raising Johan, while maintaining a household that

depended on constant labor and limited economic security.

Leaving Norway

The pressures of supporting such a family in rural Norway were considerable. In 1896, Bernt made the first move toward a transatlantic future, departing from Oslo on 5 Jun 1896 and arriving, onboard the *RMS Parisian*, in Levis, Quebec, on 20 Jun 1896. As Marie and their children would also do later, he went from Quebec to Toronto, crossed the border in St. Albans, Vermont, and the went on to Toronto, South Dakota from there.

In his immigration record, Bernt reported that his destination would be to his "brother" Even Mathiassen, who was in fact his stepson, already living in Toronto, South Dakota. His departure followed a familiar Norwegian pattern: the husband traveling first to establish a foothold before sending for the rest of the family. For more than a year, Marie remained in Norway with the children, managing the household alone.

That separation ended on 20 Aug 1897, when Marie departed Oslo with Bennie, Sina, Julia, and Christian, traveling to Hull, England on the *SS Angelo*. They left Liverpool on 26 Aug 1897 and arrived in Montreal on 6 Sep 1897 aboard the ship *The State of California*. Border crossing documents indicate their final destination was to be Toronto, Deuel County, South Dakota, where Bernt was already waiting (see Emigration Records, Figures 62, 63 , and 64). Their emigration closed the Norwegian chapter in Marie's life. It ended years shaped by the state church, rural labor, and small farm communities, and opened a new chapter defined by migration, resettlement, and the uncertain promises of North America.

New Names in a New Land

With their arrival in America came new names as well as new lives. In Norway, identity had been fluid, shaped by patronymics and by the farms where people happened to live. In the United States, fixed surnames were required, and the family settled on Togstad, taken most likely from the last farm where Marie and Bernt had lived and worked in Norway.

Earlier, Even Mathiassen anglicized his name to Edward Fremstad, likely after a Fremstad farm in Norway. Johan Pedersen followed suit changing his name to John Fremstad, almost certainly adopting his brother's surname to anchor himself within the same household and identity.

Modern Norwegian Flag

Shortly after the Togstads had left Norway for America, the old country itself took a visible step toward the future. In 1898, the Norwegian parliament passed a new flag law that removed the Swedish-Norwegian union mark from the national flag. For the first time in generations, Norwegians were free to raise a banner that belonged to Norway alone: a deep red field crossed by a blue Nordic cross outlined in white.

This was not a new design, but it was newly empowered, no longer sharing space with the symbols of another nation. By 1899, this "clean flag" was flying openly across Norway, and within a few years, after independence in 1905, it became the official flag in every sense. While the Togstads were beginning new lives across the Atlantic, Norway was quietly reclaiming its own visual identity at home, lifting the same flag that still represents the country today.

From Norway to the Prairie

In September 1897, Marie Kristiansdatter arrived in North America with the Togstad children and made her way to Toronto in Deuel County, South Dakota (see figure 15 #5). She was not entering an unknown place. Eastern Deuel County had already become part of a dense Norwegian settlement, and it was here that her older sons had already gravitated. The prairie towns and scattered farmsteads around Toronto, Brandt, and Herrick (see figure 15 #2 and #5) formed a small world of kinship and familiarity, where families often lived only a few miles apart. Marie's arrival gathered her family into a single local orbit. After years of separation across oceans and households, her children were again within visiting distance, bound together by geography as well as blood.

Figure 17
Marie and her children, Bennie, Sina, and Julia

By the late 1890s, when Marie and Bernt August Simensen Togstad were reunited with their children in eastern South Dakota, they were living in one of the most heavily Norwegian regions in America. Scandinavia Township in Deuel County was part of a network of Norwegian farms, Lutheran churches, and rural schools. Norwegian was still widely spoken in homes and in church services. Community life centered on seasonal farm labor, church gatherings, and cooperative help at planting and harvest. Bernt was listed as a farmer who owned his land, a significant marker of stability and achievement for an immigrant family. Marie managed a household that included Julia, Christian, Bennie, and Sina, while the children attended school and contributed labor suited to their ages. Daily life was shaped by long winters, short growing seasons, and the steady demands of mixed farming, closely resembling rural Hedmark, though played out on a much larger landscape.

By the time of the 1900 federal census, the closeness of the family's arrangement is clear. Marie and Bernt were established in Scandinavia Township, where Bernt owned a farm. Edward was found nearby in Herrick, working as a farm laborer, while John was living in Norden Township, also in Deuel County, employed as a farm servant. Though each young man was attached to a different household, all were part of the same small prairie network of Norwegian farms, churches, and rural schools. Travel between these places meant only a few miles by wagon or on foot. Visits, shared work, and mutual support would have been natural and frequent. In practical terms, the family was living together again, even if not under the same roof.

The Blizzard of 1909: A Different Kind of Winter

In early February 1909, one of the heaviest snowstorms in South Dakota's recorded history swept across the eastern part of the state. On 8 Feb 1909, a powerful winter system dropped deep snow and drove fierce winds that built drifts high enough to block rail lines, bury roads, and isolate farms. In nearby communities such as Sioux Falls, De Smet, and Brookings, snow measured from 6 to more than 20 inches, with winds turning that snowfall into blinding, shifting walls of white.

Toronto lay within this same region, and even though exact measurements were not preserved, there is little doubt that farms there faced the same conditions: choked trails, frozen machinery, livestock in danger, and families suddenly cut off from town. For prairie settlers, storms like this did not simply inconvenience. They tested whether feed had been laid in deeply enough, whether fences could still be found under the drifts, and whether anyone caught outdoors could make it back to shelter.

A South Dakota blizzard was a particular kind of winter terror. Unlike mountain snowfalls, prairie storms had almost no natural barriers. Wind could race across open fields for miles, lifting and driving snow until the world vanished. Familiar landmarks disappeared. Fences became traps. A man could step outside a barn and lose sight of it within seconds. Drifts might bury doors, windows, and entire outbuildings. Travel between neighboring farms, or even from house to barn, could become life-threatening. These storms often struck with little warning, and once underway they could paralyze entire counties. For farm families, survival depended on preparation, routine, and an intimate knowledge of land that suddenly offered no visible clues.

Figure 18
Sioux Falls Post Card of 1909 Blizzard

For Norwegian immigrants, South Dakota winters were both familiar and profoundly different from those they had known. Norway's winters were certainly cold and snowy, yet they were shaped by terrain. Valleys, forests, hills, and fjords broke the wind. Mountains channeled storms. Snow accumulated, but it did not usually move with the same relentless force. In rural Norway, winter hardship often meant isolation, heavy loads of snow, and long dark seasons, but people could orient themselves by ridges, trees, and settled pathways. On the Dakota prairie, there were few such landmarks.

Storms like that of February 1909 revealed one of the great environmental shocks of prairie life. Immigrants had exchanged a land of enclosed winters for one of exposed winters. The danger was not only the cold. It was the wind, the disorientation, and the way a blizzard could transform a

known landscape into a blank, hostile environment. Each major storm reinforced that survival in South Dakota required new instincts, new forms of preparation, and constant respect for weather that could dominate everything. For families like the Fremstads, winter on the plains was not merely a season. It was an adversary that returned every year, capable of undoing in hours what months of labor had built.

The Family Begins to Scatter

In the years that followed, Edward and John began to move away from the family orbit. John was the first to break away. By 1910, he had gone north to Bar Butte Township in Williams County, North Dakota, working as a hired farm laborer in the developing wheat country near the Canadian border. He would later establish himself there as a farmer, building a life that carried him permanently away from the Deuel County settlements.

Edward, by contrast, remained close for longer. By 1918 he was working as a railroad section foreman in Ward, Moody County, about sixty miles south of Deuel County. His work reflected a different path from farming, tied to the rail lines that were reshaping movement, commerce, and opportunity across the plains.

Their departures did not happen abruptly, but gradually, following work, marriage, and the slow pull of opportunity. The early years after Marie's arrival were marked by proximity and reconnection. The years that followed show the family dispersing once again, this time not across an ocean, but across the wide interior of the American plains.

Making a Life in America

By 1910, the family had moved to Grange Township in Deuel County. Bernt still owned a farm, suggesting a farm operation large enough to employ hired labor. Eastern South Dakota at this time was near the height of its small-farm prosperity. New rail lines connected rural townships to market towns. Mail-order catalogs brought consumer goods into isolated homes. Rural schools expanded. Churches remained the cultural anchors of immigrant communities, hosting not only worship but also social events, youth instruction, and holiday celebrations.

Julia was a young adult at home, Christian had left home and worked as a hired man, Bennie labored on the family farm, and Sina remained in the household. Marie's life in these years was still rooted in the farm economy: food production, animal care, household management, and the steady labor that supported both family and enterprise.

The period between 1910 and 1920 marked a turning point. Mechanization, fluctuating crop prices, and increasing economic pressure reshaped prairie farming. The family left the countryside and relocated to Brookings, where the 1920 census places them in an urban ward rather than on a farm. Brookings was a growing regional center, home to the South Dakota State College and expanding commercial districts. The move represented a major cultural shift.

Figure 19
Main Street, Brookings, South Dakota

Town life replaced the isolation of the farm. Wage labor replaced agricultural self-sufficiency. Bernt no longer owned a farm. The household rented rather than owned. Julia worked as a dishwasher in a restaurant, part of the expanding service economy that supported college students, railroad traffic, and regional trade. Marie lived in a town shaped by postwar change, where automobiles were becoming common, women's work outside the home was increasing, and public institutions played a larger role in daily life.

The year 1920 (see 1920 Census, Figure 65) found Marie nearly seventy years old, still at the center of her family but now far removed from the small farms of Ringsaker and the prairie homesteads of Deuel County. The world around her had changed profoundly. World War I had ended only months earlier. Prohibition had begun. Rural populations were steadily drifting toward towns. Norwegian-language newspapers and churches still preserved cultural ties, but younger generations increasingly moved within English-speaking, American institutions. Marie's life in America up to this point traces the larger immigrant arc: from farm settlement, to relative prosperity, to the economic and cultural adjustments of town life in a changing nation.

A Time of Fracture

The Togstad household had left farm life behind. In 1920, Marie and Bernt were in Brookings, South Dakota, living in town rather than on the land. This shift mirrored a broader change across the Midwest. The years immediately following World War I brought volatile crop prices, mounting farm debt, and growing economic uncertainty. Rural families across South Dakota were leaving the countryside for towns, seeking wage work and stability. Brookings was a regional center shaped by the presence of South Dakota State College, rail connections, and a growing service economy. For Marie, nearing seventy, this move marked the end of the long agrarian chapter that had defined most of her life.

The decade that followed proved to be one of fragmentation and strain. Christian Togstad formed a life of his own and, by comparison, weathered these years more successfully than most of his siblings. Census and later residence records show him moving away from his parents' household

and establishing himself through steady work and marriage, eventually supporting a family of his own. His trajectory reflected the path many rural Midwesterners hoped to achieve: movement toward stable employment, marriage, and household independence during a period when such outcomes were becoming less certain.

The experiences of the other children were far more troubled. Julia Togstad married in the 1920s, but her marriage brought not stability, but loss. Her husband was a widower more than forty years her senior, and he died only three months after their wedding, leaving her widowed almost immediately.

Figure 20
Marie Kristiansdatter & Daughter-in-Law Nellie

Julia returned home, and the evidence suggests that she never established a separate household again. Her brief marriage ended almost as soon as it began, and from that point forward her life appears to have remained closely bound to the family home. For women of this period, especially those without property or higher education, widowhood often meant economic vulnerability and a return to wage labor or dependence on extended family.

The hardships were deeper still for Sina Togstad. During the 1920s, she gave birth to two sons out of wedlock, circumstances that carried heavy social stigma in small Midwestern communities. In the 1925 South Dakota State Census, Sina and her children were recorded to be at the Redfield State School and Home in Redfield, South Dakota, an institution that housed people with mental impairments and those deemed unable to live independently.

The 1930 federal census confirms Sina's continued residence there, along with her two boys. Institutions like Redfield expanded rapidly in the early twentieth century, shaped by Progressive-Era beliefs about social control, heredity, and public responsibility for the dependent. Families often faced immense pressure to place vulnerable members in such facilities, especially when poverty, single motherhood, and disability intersected.

The life of Bernhard (“Bennie”) Adolf Togstad also unraveled during this period. By the 1930 federal census, Bennie appears in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, listed as an inmate at the South Dakota State Penitentiary. Court and prison records indicate that his incarceration followed a series of financial crimes involving bad checks. The 1920s were years of expanding consumer credit, but also of harsh penalties for financial failure. Economic instability, limited education, and the collapse of rural opportunity left many young men exposed to both temptation and severe legal consequences.

These accumulating events unfolded against a wider national backdrop of strain. The early 1920s brought postwar recession. The late 1920s brought speculation, rising debt, and finally the shock of the 1929 stock market crash, which accelerated hardship across the Midwest. Social services were limited. Mental health care was institutional. Public assistance was minimal. Families carried most burdens privately, often with few tools beyond endurance.

By the time of Marie Kristiansdatter Togstad's death in 1930, her family had splintered across households, towns, institutions, and prisons. The hopes that had carried her across the Atlantic more than thirty years earlier had given way to a far more complicated American reality. She had lived to see prosperity and land ownership, but also widowhood, illness, stigma, and confinement touch her children's lives. Marie's death closed a long arc that stretched from rural Hedmark to the prairie frontier and finally into the unsettled world of twentieth-century America, leaving behind a family whose future would be shaped as much by survival as by settlement.

Marie - A Life in Reflection

Marie Kristiansdatter's life traced a long and demanding arc across two continents and nearly eight decades. She was born into the rural working world of nineteenth-century Norway, shaped by farm labor, parish authority, and the fragile security of cotter families. Her early adult years were marked by service on farms, by the vulnerability of unmarried motherhood, and by the complex ties she formed with Mathias Andersen and Peder Jensen. Marriage to Bernt August Simensen Togstad in 1885 brought a period of stability and the building of a larger family, followed by the immense decision to leave Norway behind.

Her emigration in 1897 carried her into the heart of the Norwegian settlements of eastern South Dakota. There, she helped transform a household of immigrants into prairie farmers, raising children in the lingering conditions of the sod-era, long winters, and a culture still deeply shaped by Norwegian language, church, and custom. Her life was defined by labor, child-rearing, and endurance. By 1920, she had moved with Bernt into town life in Brookings, marking the close of her long agricultural chapter.

The final decade of Marie's life was overshadowed by hardship. Economic change, illness, institutionalization, imprisonment, and early death touched her children's lives in ways that would have been both painful and bewildering. These years unfolded during a time when social services were limited, mental health care meant confinement, and families carried most burdens privately. Marie lived to see some prosperity, but also loss, instability, and fracture.

Marie Kristiansdatter Togstad **died on 11 Aug 1930** and was laid to rest in an unmarked grave at Greenwood Cemetery in Brookings, South Dakota, her burial place reflecting the quietness with which so many working women passed from the world they had sustained. No stone preserves her name, but her life endures in parish books, census schedules, and in the generations that followed. She was a daughter of Hedmark, a prairie mother, and a woman whose life bridged the old world and the new. Her story is not one of prominence, but of persistence, shaped by work, migration, and the unrecorded strength required to hold a family together across distance, poverty, and change.

Figure 21
Marie Kristiansdatter's Unmarked Grave Site
Greenwood Cemetery, Brookings, South Dakota

A Memorial Obituary for Marie Kristiansdatter Togstad

Marie Kristiansdatter Togstad was born on 3 Oct 1852 at the Gjølstad farm in Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway, and died on 11 Aug 1930 in Brookings County, South Dakota, closing a life that spanned the journey from rural Norway to the American prairie.

Marie was born and raised in Norway, where she grew up within the farming communities near Lake Mjøsa. As a young woman, she worked on farms and later married Bernt August Simensen Togstad (10 May 1864 - 2 Oct 1950) of Ottestad, Stange, Hedmark. Together they raised a family and, in 1897, emigrated to the United States, settling in Deuel County, South Dakota, among many others from their homeland.

Upon arriving in America, they took the surname Togstad, drawn from the name of the last farm on which they had lived and worked in Norway.

Marie devoted her life to her home and children. She was the mother of Even Mathiassen, later Edward M. Fremstad (20 Apr 1876 - 9 Mar 1935); Johan Pedersen, later John Fremstad (26 Mar 1882 - 18 Jan 1950); Julia Togstad (8 Nov 1886 - 16 Aug 1950); Christian Togstad (6 Sep 1887 - 11 Jun 1937); Bernhard "Bennie" Adolf Togstad (25 Mar 1890 - 23 Mar 1949); Maren Emilie Berntsdatter (21 Mar 1892 - 23 Mar 1893); and Sina Togstad (26 Apr 1894 - 30 Oct 1949).

She shared the hardships and hopes of early prairie life, helping to build a household that moved from farm to town as the years passed. In later life, she lived in Brookings, where she remained until her death.

Though her passing drew little public notice, her long life reflected the experience of countless immigrant women whose labor and perseverance shaped both family and community.

Marie was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Brookings, South Dakota, in an unmarked grave. She is remembered not by monument, but by the lives that followed her.

The Fremstad Brothers

Edward Fremstad and John Fremstad were half-brothers, both sons of Marie Kristiansdatter, born six years apart in Norway to different fathers. Edward, born Even Mathiassen in 1876, was Marie's first child. Following was John, born Johan Pedersen in 1882. Their childhoods were shaped by the same mother, the same rural Norwegian world, and by the blended household that formed when Marie later married Bernt Togstad. Though their early years were marked by shifting residences and complex family circumstances, they remained connected by shared origins and family ties.

Figure 22
John Fremstad, Chris Togstad, Ed Fremstad

The extent to which Edward and John knew one another in Norway is not known. Their age difference and the circumstances of their childhood suggest that their early relationship may have been limited or intermittent. It is known Edward helped arrange work for John after his arrival in the United States, and John adopted Edward's surname, becoming John Fremstad. Whatever their relationship had been in Norway, in America they acted as family, and the evidence suggests they were reasonably close.

Together they carried the Fremstad name into America, linking two separate Norwegian beginnings into a single family line that would extend across the plains and into the generations that followed.

Edward Fremstad (Even Mathiassen): From Farm Boy to Railroad Man

Edward Fremstad was **born 10 Apr 1876** in Nes, Hedmark, Norway, the first child of Marie Kristiansdatter (see Baptism Record, Figure 66). He was baptized on 05 Jun 1876, and the baptismal record places him across Lake Mjøsa in the Vardal area near Gjøvik, indicating that he and his mother had already relocated shortly after his birth. His earliest records therefore span both Nes and Vardal, reflecting the movement common among unmarried mothers and rural laborers in the Lake Mjøsa district. He entered the world outside of marriage, a circumstance that often meant an unsettled childhood shaped by foster arrangements, farm service, and economic necessity rather than by a single permanent household.

1882 – Peak of Emigration to America

By 1882, Norwegian emigration to North America reached its highest point of the 19th century,

with nearly 29,000 people leaving Norway in that single year. This peak stood within a much larger movement. Between about 1829 and 1925, roughly 800,000 Norwegians crossed the Atlantic, most bound for the United States. For a country with a relatively small population, this represented one of the largest emigration waves in its history, driven by limited land, economic pressure, social change, and the promise of opportunity abroad.

For decades, stories of life in America - of fertile land, burgeoning towns, and a chance for independence - had circulated back home in letters and newspapers. Early emigrants and their families wrote vivid accounts of the wide prairies, plentiful jobs, and the possibility of owning a farm under laws like the U.S. Homestead Act, which offered land to those who would settle and work it. These tales spread through churches, market towns, and rural districts alike, creating what many in Norway began to call “America fever.”

But the reasons Norwegians chose to leave were also grounded in hardship. Norway’s population had grown rapidly in the 19th century, and while technological advances improved some industries, many rural areas still faced limited farmland, seasonal poverty, and little chance for upward mobility. Young men and women who could not inherit land or make a living in their home parishes often found themselves with few options beyond low-wage work or migration.

Figure 23
Statue of Liberty, still in Paris, 1883

In Ed Fremstad’s world, the pressures and promises of this era would have been felt keenly. As a young man growing up in a farming community in the late 1870s and early 1880s, Ed may have heard letters from relatives who had already made the long voyage westward. These letters, filled with news of wide open spaces and the chance to build a life of his own, contrasted sharply with life in Norway, where land was scarce and economic opportunity was slow to arrive.

Moreover, nearly every parish and village in Norway felt the pull of emigration by the early 1880s. Farms once thick with families saw sons and daughters depart. Market days and church gatherings carried rumors of the American Midwest’s bustling towns and waving wheat fields. Even neighbors who had never thought of leaving began to wonder if it might be worth the risk to cross the ocean.

For Ed, the decision to emigrate likely unfolded over many conversations and quiet reflections. He may have watched older friends depart for the docks or read letters from those already in America. The promise of owning land, of homesteading and farming on the wide plains, offered not only physical distance but the prospect of independence and self-definition. For a young man born outside marriage, whose place in rural Norwegian society carried social weight and fewer

built-in protections, America may also have represented a chance to step beyond local memory and begin on terms of his own making. At the same time, the pull of family, language, and familiar landscapes would have weighed heavily. The soaring emigration numbers in 1882, the peak year of departure, show how many of his countrymen ultimately chose the horizon beyond Norway's coast as the place to stake their futures.

In 1887, at just 11, Edward emigrated alone to the United States (See Emigration Records, Figures 67, 68, 69). His last recorded place of residence in Norway was Hamar, and he began his journey by sailing from Oslo to Hull, England, aboard the *SS Angelo*, a vessel the rest his family would later use as well. From England he continued across the Atlantic, arriving in Philadelphia on 15 Aug 1887 aboard the *SS Lord Clive* (see figure 4). His stated destination was Canton, Minnesota. Child emigration of this kind was not rare in late-nineteenth-century Norway. Boys of Edward's age were already accustomed to labor, and families frequently sent children ahead to relatives, sponsors, or employers. His crossing placed him among the thousands of young Norwegians who entered America not as dependents, but as workers.

Although his stated destination in 1887 was Canton, Minnesota, his movements after arrival are not known. Whether he reached Canton at all or remained only briefly is unknown. What can be said with certainty is that by 1900 he had established himself in South Dakota, where he appears in the federal census and where he would remain for much of his adult life. Like many young immigrants, Edward's early years in America were likely marked by movement in search of steady work, shifting from one rural community to another until he found more lasting footing on the northern plains.

In 1900, Edward, now 24, appears in the federal census in Herrick, Deuel County, South Dakota, working as a servant and farm laborer for a hotelier (see 1900 Census, Figure 70). Servant work on the northern plains meant long days of physical labor: tending livestock, hauling water and fuel, repairing fences, breaking sod, and assisting with planting and harvest. He lived within the same Norwegian settlement world as his mother and step-family, only a few miles away in neighboring townships. These prairie communities were church-centered, Norwegian-speaking, and socially tight-knit, bound together by shared labor, seasonal rhythms, and mutual reliance.

Edward took formal steps toward American citizenship in the early years of the new century. He filed his *Declaration of Intention* in 1901, followed by his *Petition for Naturalization*, and finally the *Oath*

Census Citizenship Status

Federal and state censuses often recorded a person's citizenship status, using shorthand notations. "AL" (or "PA" in some schedules) indicated an alien who had not yet begun the process, "PA" or "Na" often marked someone who had filed first papers, and "Na" or "N" indicated a person who had been fully naturalized. Edward's census entries can be used to trace his progression through these stages, aligning with his filings in 1901 and 1904. For men like Edward, naturalization was more than symbolic. Citizenship was required to vote, secure land, serve on juries, and fully participate in civic life. His completion of the process reflects an intention not merely to work in America, but to make it his permanent home.

of Allegiance in 1904, formally becoming a citizen of the United States (see Figures 71, 72, and 73).

At that time, naturalization was typically a multi-year process. An immigrant first filed a *Declaration of Intention*, commonly called "first papers," stating the desire to renounce allegiance to the former country. After a waiting period, usually several years, the immigrant could petition for citizenship known as *Petition for Naturalization*, provide witnesses to attest to residence and character, and finally swear the *Oath of Allegiance* before a court.

On 13 Dec 1905, Edward married Nellie Gustavsdatter Fallet, who was born 03 Aug 1886 in Nord-Odal, Hedmark, Norway. Nord-Odal lay within Hedmark, but it was not near Ringsaker or Vardal, and their meeting in America joined two Norwegian backgrounds that had developed in different districts of eastern Norway (see Marriage Record, Figure 74).

The marriage took place at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Canby, Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota, just across the South Dakota border. Canby was a small but active railroad and market town, serving the surrounding farming districts.

The marriage marked Edward's transition from hired laborer to household head. Together, Edward and Nellie established a family whose early years unfolded within the same prairie corridor of eastern South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota, shaped by farming communities, rail lines, and the growing towns that connected them.

Figure 24

Between 1906 and 1918, five children were born to Edward's household:

- George Benjamin Fremstad (born 11 Dec 1906, died 9 May 1983, Luverne, Minnesota).
  John Fremstad was George's God father.
- Hazel Viola Fremstad (born 20 Aug 1910, died 1 Oct 1989, Sioux Falls, South Dakota)
- Marian Mathilda Fremstad (born 1 Jun 1912, died 2 Feb 1987, Luverne, Minnesota)
- Nora Evelyn Fremstad (born 22 Jan 1915, died 6 Jan 2005, Ellsworth, Minnesota)
- Vernon Arthur Fremstad (born 27 Aug 1918, died 2 Jan 1981, St. Paul, Minnesota)

These children were born into a world still deeply rural but rapidly changing. Railroads, grain elevators, mail-order commerce, and town schools were

reshaping daily life across the plains. It was within this setting that Edward's working life shifted from agriculture to one of the defining industries of the region, the railroad.

World War I

World War I broke out in Europe on 28 Jul 1914, only a few decades after the Fremstad and Togstad families had begun building their lives in the Dakotas. Although the United States remained officially neutral for nearly 3 years, the war was never distant. Newspapers carried daily reports from Europe, immigrant communities worried over relatives overseas, and American industry quietly shifted toward supplying the Allied powers.

For families of Norwegian background, the conflict carried special weight. Norway was neutral, but its merchant shipping suffered heavy losses, and news from Scandinavia reminded immigrant households that the Old World was still fragile and dangerous. For Ed and John Fremstad, both raised in immigrant communities shaped by European memory, the war reinforced the contrast between instability abroad and the opportunities, however demanding, of life in the American Midwest.

When the United States entered the war on 06 Apr 1917, the conflict immediately reached into every rural county. Congress passed the Selective Service Act, requiring men across the nation to register for the draft. Ed and John both complied, filling out World War I draft registration cards, placing their names, addresses, occupations, and physical descriptions into federal records (see Figure 75). Registration alone marked a turning point. Even men who were never called were formally drawn into a national system of military obligation, signaling that their adopted country now expected their service if needed.

The fact that neither Ed nor John was ultimately called up does not mean the war passed them by. Rural communities were deeply affected even when men stayed home. Farms faced labor shortages as younger men left for training camps and overseas service. Wheat prices rose sharply, and the federal government urged farmers to increase production to feed both American troops and Allied nations. This placed pressure on families to work longer hours, bring younger children into farm labor, and break additional land. For men like Ed and John, remaining at home may have meant increased responsibility rather than safety or ease. Their work would have been considered part of the war effort, even without a uniform.

World War I also intensified Americanization campaigns, especially in immigrant communities. German language newspapers closed, foreign language church services were discouraged in some places, and loyalty to the United States was publicly emphasized. Norwegian families were not targeted as harshly as German ones, but the atmosphere still pushed immigrants and their children to demonstrate patriotism. Filling out draft cards, participating in bond drives, and complying with wartime regulations reinforced a sense that they were no longer simply Norwegian settlers in America, but Americans whose lives were now bound to national events.

By 1918, Edward and family was living in Ward, Moody County, South Dakota. Ed was employed as a railroad section foreman for the Rock Island Railroad Company. Section crews maintained the tracks themselves, replacing ties, leveling roadbeds, clearing snow, and repairing damage caused by floods and frost.

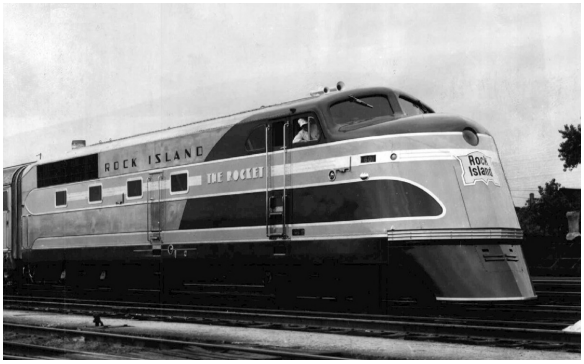


Figure 25
Rock Island Rocket, 1937

It was physically demanding and often dangerous work, carried out in extreme heat and brutal winters. As foreman, Edward supervised crews, kept records, and coordinated repairs, holding a position of both responsibility and steady wages. In the northern plains, the railroad was not merely transportation. It was the backbone of settlement, commerce, and communication. Grain, lumber, livestock, mail, and people all depended on the rail lines that men like Edward kept in service.

The 1920 federal census confirms Edward's continued residence in Ward, Moody County, indicating stability during the difficult post–World War I years, when agricultural prices fluctuated and rural economies struggled. By 1930, Edward had moved east to Luverne, Rock County, Minnesota, a growing railroad and market town near the South Dakota line. Luverne sat within a dense network of branch lines, elevators, and shipping depots, and it was here that Edward spent his final years.

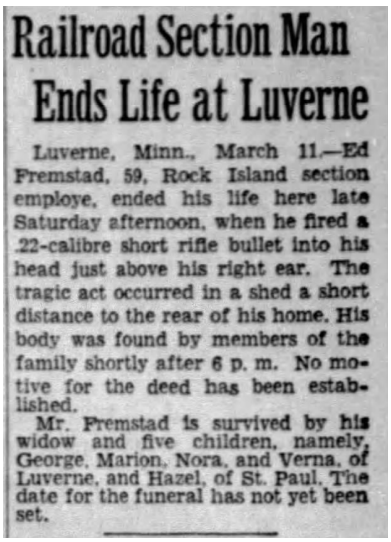
Wall Street Crash and the Beginning of the Great Depression

On 29 Oct 1929, the collapse of the New York stock market sent shockwaves far beyond financial centers and into nearly every household in the nation. Banks failed by the thousands. Businesses closed. Credit vanished. Savings that had taken decades to build disappeared in weeks. Although the crash began in urban financial markets, its consequences struck rural America with particular force. Farm prices had already been weak through much of the 1920s. After the crash, they collapsed entirely. Wheat, corn, and livestock often sold for less than the cost of production. Mortgages went unpaid. Foreclosures multiplied. For families in South Dakota and North Dakota, the Great Depression was not measured in stock charts, but in lost land, empty cupboards, and the slow erosion of security.

The emotional and psychological toll of these years was immense. The Depression produced what contemporaries frequently described as a national crisis of morale. Men who had defined themselves through labor and self-reliance suddenly found themselves unable to provide. Long-standing assumptions about effort leading to reward no longer held true. Chronic unemployment, unpayable debt, and repeated crop failures created a constant undercurrent of anxiety. Depression, nervous exhaustion, and despair became common features of daily life, even if they were rarely named in modern clinical terms. State hospitals and local poor farms saw rising admissions. Newspapers reported suicides with troubling regularity. Silence often surrounded mental suffering, but it was widely felt.

Edward's adult life unfolded in the shadow of this collapse. Even for those who survived materially, the Depression often left quieter scars: heightened worry, guarded hope, and a sharpened awareness of how quickly stability could vanish. The Wall Street crash of 1929 did not simply begin an economic downturn. It ushered in a decade that altered the emotional landscape of the country. It redefined what hardship looked like, how communities responded to distress, and how individuals carried invisible burdens. Edward lived in that world, and his story cannot be separated from a time when financial catastrophe and mental strain moved hand in hand across the nation.

At 58, Edward Fremstad **died on 9 Mar 1935** in Luverne, Rock County, Minnesota (see Church Record, Figure 76). He took his own life. His death occurred during the difficult years of the Great Depression, a time when economic strain and personal hardship weighed heavily on many families across the Upper Midwest.



Railroad Section Man Ends Life at Luverne

Luverne, Minn., March 11.—Ed Fremstad, 59, Rock Island section employe, ended his life here late Saturday afternoon, when he fired a .22-calibre short rifle bullet into his head just above his right ear. The tragic act occurred in a shed a short distance to the rear of his home. His body was found by members of the family shortly after 6 p. m. No motive for the deed has been established.

Mr. Fremstad is survived by his widow and five children, namely, George, Marion, Nora, and Verna, of Luverne, and Hazel, of St. Paul. The date for the funeral has not yet been set.

Figure 26
Obituary - Edward Fremstad

He was buried there, in Luverne, closing a life that had carried him from rural Norway across the Atlantic as a boy, through prairie farm labor, and into the rail system that stitched the American plains together.

In the remarks of the church record of his death is the comment: Matthew 18:7-11:

Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire. Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

Edward's story is one of early separation, physical work, and steady adaptation. He belonged to the generation that arrived too late for homesteading and too early for industrial security. His years reflect the lived reality of Norwegian immigrants who did not become landowners, but who built the infrastructure, tended the farms of others, and kept the transportation arteries open through which prairie communities survived. Through his children, the Fremstad name moved fully into the twentieth century, carried not by farm tenancy or patronymic custom, but by a fixed American identity rooted in work, family, and place.

John Fremstad (Johan Pedersen): From Scarcity to Family

John Fremstad was **born 26 Mar 1882** in Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway, and baptized on 21 May 1882 in the Ringsaker church (see Baptism record, Figure 77). In the parish register he appears as Johan Pedersen, son of Marie Kristiansdatter and Peder Jensen, who were not married. Later American records sometimes give his father's name as Jens Pedersen, reflecting either confusion, reporting error, or the fluid way patronymics were remembered after emigration.

At the time of John's birth, Marie was living at Stensengeie, part of Stenseng farm in Ringsaker, placing his earliest documented home firmly within the Ringsaker farming district. In later life, John consistently reported his birthplace as Hamar, Hedmark, the nearby town and regional center, which would have been far more recognizable to American officials than a small cotter place.

Family tradition holds that both of John's parents were servants. His father worked with livestock. His mother made pastries and traveled from farm to farm selling them, a form of seasonal or itinerant work not uncommon among rural women with limited means. John entered life already shaped by labor and movement.

His older half-brother, Even (later Edward Fremstad), had been born in 1876 and left Norway in 1887, when John was only 5. By the 1891 census, John, then 9, was living in Nes within the blended household formed when his mother married Bernt August Simensen Togstad, alongside younger half-siblings Julia, Christian, and Bennie. Childhood in such homes was practical rather than sheltered.

By this point, Marie's life had taken on the more settled form of a family unit, and John was growing up within a blended household that included children not his own by blood but raised alongside him. For John, these years likely brought greater stability than his earliest childhood, but they also placed him within a working farm environment where children were expected to contribute early.

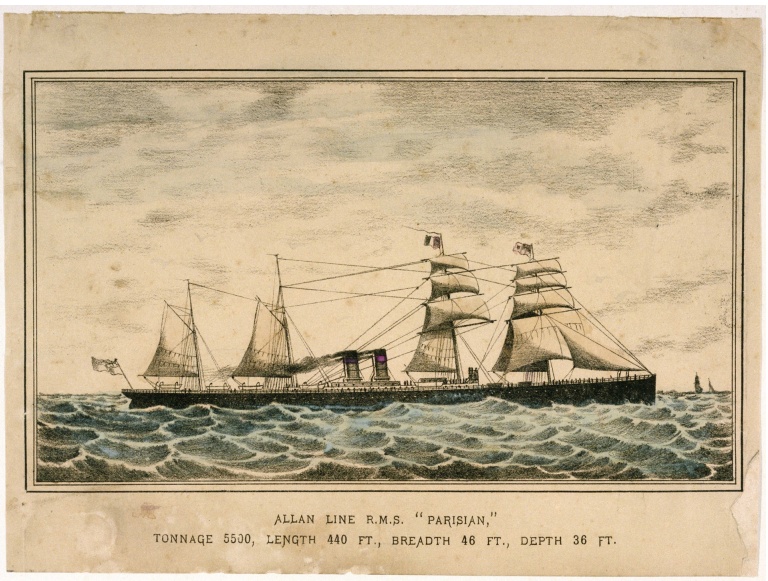


Figure 27
RMS Parisian

The 1891 census marks the closing of his Norwegian childhood. Within only a few years, he would leave both Norway and his mother's home behind, beginning the long American chapter of his life.

On 02 Jun 1893, when he was 11, John left Norway for America (see Emigration

record, Figure 78). Later in life he reported 1894 as his year of immigration and that he entered through New York. Passenger and emigration records, however, place his departure clearly in 1893, and show that he traveled the typical Norwegian route through England and Canada. He first sailed from Oslo to Hull aboard the *SS Angelo*, a common feeder ship used by Scandinavian emigrants. From Hull he crossed England by rail to Liverpool, where he boarded the *SS Parisian* for the Atlantic crossing to Quebec City.

John arrived in Quebec City on 14 Jun 1893. The *Parisian* had followed the established Quebec route used by many Norwegian emigrants. From Quebec, immigrants traveled by river steamer, down the St. Lawrence River, to Montreal.

It is unknown from Montreal where John crossed into the United States. He may have followed the route into Windsor and crossed the border into Detroit, or he may have crossed at St. Albans, Vermont. Prior to 1895, border crossing records were not kept (see figure 4).

Family recollection preserved the starkness of his journey. John is said to have departed with only the clothes he wore, a pocket knife, and a straw hat that blew into the ocean during the crossing. Given his age and the limited means of his family, it is highly likely that his passage was paid by an employer in America, a common arrangement for young immigrants whose labor had already been promised. Evidence suggests that Edward arranged John's first job, placing him as a chore boy with a family near Brookings, South Dakota, where he remained until about age 17. Chore work meant long days of labor in exchange for board, clothing, and minimal wages, but it also offered stability and a foothold in American life.

Statehood and the End of the American Frontier

By the late 1880s, the American Midwest was being reshaped politically and economically. On 08 Nov 1887, voters in Dakota Territory approved a referendum to divide the vast region into two separate territories, North Dakota and South Dakota. This was not just a bureaucratic change. It signaled that the population had grown large enough, and stable enough, to justify full state governments. For immigrants in Europe and recent arrivals in the United States, this kind of development sent a powerful message. These were no longer distant frontier outposts. These were places preparing for permanence, law, infrastructure, and opportunity.

Figure 28
Stagecoach in Black Hills of South Dakota

Congress confirmed that direction with

the Enabling Act on 02 Feb 1889, which laid out the formal path to statehood. Railroads, land companies, and newspapers heavily promoted the Dakotas during this period. They advertised cheap land, farming opportunity, and the promise of self-sufficiency. For young immigrants like John Fremstad, coming of age in the shadow of American expansion, this national enthusiasm would have shaped where relatives settled, where jobs could be found, and where a future might realistically be built.

On 02 Nov 1889, both North Dakota and South Dakota were admitted to the Union. Almost overnight, the region became more attractive to settlers. Statehood brought investment in rail lines, county governments, courts, schools, and land offices. Towns grew rapidly. Farms expanded. Churches and ethnic communities formed. When John later emigrated and first went to South Dakota, he was entering a region still in its early years of statehood, where land was being claimed, communities were organizing, and work for young men was abundant. South Dakota offered a natural entry point into this developing agricultural world.

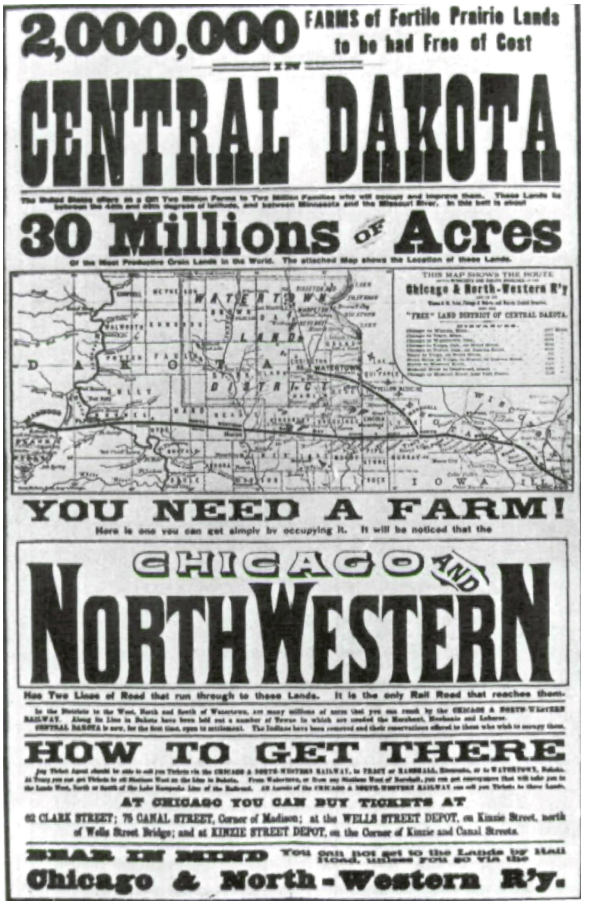

2,000,000 FARMS of Fertile Prairie Lands to be had Free of Cost
CENTRAL DAKOTA
30 Millions OF Acres
YOU NEED A FARM!
CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN
HOW TO GET THERE
Chicago & North-Western R'y.

Figure 29

At nearly the same moment, the 1890 U.S. Census declared the American frontier "closed." This announcement did not mean that land was gone, but it did mean that the era of free, undefined frontier was ending. Settlement was consolidating. Farming was becoming more commercial. Ownership and stability were replacing wandering and speculation. For John, this timing mattered. His move to South Dakota placed him among the last generation to benefit from this transitional period, when land and work were still accessible, but society was becoming structured enough to support families, businesses, and long-term roots.

His later movement north into North Dakota fits the same historical pattern. After statehood, North Dakota became a magnet for farmers and laborers as railroads pushed deeper into wheat country and new towns sprang up almost yearly. Opportunities shifted northward with each new rail spur, grain elevator, and land opening. John's relocation was likely influenced by these currents: the search for steadier work, better land, or the pull of expanding communities where Norwegians and other immigrants were already forming networks. His life choices unfolded inside a narrow historical window, shaped by the birth of two states and the closing of the American frontier, when the Dakotas stood at the center of one of the last great settlement movements in the United States.

On 25 May 1896, John was confirmed at East Highland Lutheran church in Brandt, Deuel County, South Dakota, marking his formal entry into adult religious and social life (see Confirmation record, Figure 79). Notably, he undertook confirmation on his own initiative, while his mother and stepfather were still in Norway and before the rest of his family emigrated. For a boy living as a hired worker in a new country, confirmation was not merely customary. It was a declaration of belonging and stability. By seeking confirmation independently, John anchored himself within that community, demonstrating a desire for legitimacy, structure, and acceptance at a time when his family ties were still an ocean away.

Figure 30
Highland Lutheran Church, Brandt, South Dakota

That same year his stepfather, Bernt, arrived in Deuel County, and in September 1897 his mother and siblings followed. By the 1900 census, John was living in Norden Township, Deuel County, working as a servant and farm laborer on the farm of Nicolis Solem (see figure 15 #3). The census recorded that he could read, write, and speak English, and that he had attended school through the sixth grade, likely in Norway. Farm service on the eastern South Dakota prairie demanded endurance: caring for horses and cattle, pitching hay, hauling water and coal, repairing fences, and working long seasons behind horse-drawn machinery through heat, dust, and winter cold.

By 1906, John had left the Togstads and the Norwegian settlement of Deuel County, and moved north into Williams County, North Dakota, part of the rapidly expanding wheat belt.

Figure 31
John Fremstad

For a young man in the early 20th century, North Dakota represented opportunity. The northern plains were still actively opening to settlement, and land was cheaper and more available than in the older districts of eastern South Dakota. Rail lines were expanding, new towns were forming, and demand for farm labor was high. For someone with John's background, years of service work and little prospect of land ownership in settled areas, North Dakota offered the possibility of independence, homesteading, and the chance to build something of his own.

That year he filed his Declaration of Intent to become a U.S. citizen, stating that he was living and farming near Howard (later renamed Hanks), North Dakota (See Naturalization records, Figures 80, and 81). In 1908, he came to Williston and filed a homestead claim in Bar Butte Township, near Grenora. The 1910 census found him still in Bar Butte Township, working as a servant for David Haskett, a hotel manager. Small prairie hotels were social and economic crossroads, serving railroad workers, land seekers, and seasonal laborers. Life there placed John at the center of a region still in motion.

John became a United States citizen in 1912 while living in Williams County, North Dakota. By 1914, he had secured his homestead and was farming his own land (see Homestead Map, Figure 82). His World War I draft registration in 1918 listed his post office as Grenora, just outside Bar Butte Township, and described him as a farmer. Homesteading in this region meant wheat fields, isolation, long winters, and dependence on both weather and distant markets. It also meant independence, a powerful achievement for a boy who had arrived alone.

During the 1919 harvest, John was driving the cook wagon for Chester Oakes, father of Hazel Oakes. He was supplying meals to threshing crews, when he met Hazel, who was cooking the meals along with her sister. Hazel had been born 22 May 1903 in Clitherall, Otter Tail County, Minnesota, and her family lived just east of Bar Butte Township in Blue Ridge Township.

When harvest ended, they were **married on 23 Oct 1919** in Plentywood, Sheridan County, Montana. John was thirty-seven. Hazel was 16. Their first child was born seven months later (see Marriage certificate, Figure 83).

Hazel later recalled their wedding day as marked by snow, cold, and a small family supper, followed by John carrying her into their little shack the next day. It was a beginning as modest as it was sincere.

Figure 32
John Fremstad & Hazel Oakes
Wedding Portrait, 1919

The 1920 census found them living in Bar Butte Township, farming their own land. Their first child, Olive Hazel Fremstad, was born 15 May 1920 near Grenora. By the 1925 North Dakota census, the family had grown to three children. By 1930, they were still on the homestead with five children. These were difficult years across the northern plains. Rain was unreliable. Crop prices were poor. Families relied heavily on gardens, livestock, and mutual help. Hazel later remembered raising potatoes no larger than walnuts, peeling them while nursing babies, and stretching meals so everyone could eat. She also remembered music, dancing, and laughter in the home, moments of warmth amid scarcity.

The Great Depression and the Years of Drought

The prosperity that had slowly taken hold in the Dakotas after World War I collapsed almost overnight with the stock market crash of 29 Oct 1929. What followed became the worst economic crisis the United States had ever experienced. Farm prices fell to devastating lows. Wheat, the lifeblood of much of South Dakota and North Dakota, often sold for less than it cost to grow. Banks failed, credit disappeared, and families who had spent decades building farms and homes suddenly faced foreclosure.

Figure 33
South Dakota, 1936

The early 1930s brought another blow. Severe drought settled over large parts of the northern plains. Rainfall failed. Crops withered. Topsoil loosened and drifted. Livestock suffered. Fields that once promised stability now produced dust and debt. The Dakotas were not the epicenter of the Dust Bowl, but they were deeply affected by the same cycle of drought, falling yields, and financial collapse. Many families abandoned farms altogether. Others scattered temporarily in search of wage labor. Communities that had once grown steadily now struggled simply to endure.

It was in this atmosphere that John Fremstad's life was affected by the national recovery efforts. he federal government responded to mass unemployment by creating work-relief programs, including the Works Progress Administration (WPA) beginning in 1935. The WPA employed millions of Americans building roads, public buildings, bridges, and other infrastructure. John's involvement in WPA work places him among those who relied on these programs not as charity, but as earned support. WPA jobs restored a paycheck, preserved dignity, and kept families housed and fed at a time when private employment had nearly vanished. His work under the WPA suggests years when steady labor could no longer be taken for granted, and when survival depended on the nation's attempt to rebuild itself from the ground up.

For John, the Great Depression was likely one of the most defining periods of his adult life. It reshaped daily routines, limited choices, and forced practical decisions about where and how work could be found. The droughts of the early 1930s stripped away any remaining illusion that farming alone could guarantee security. His participation in WPA projects reflects a man adapting to extraordinary conditions, accepting new kinds of work, and navigating a transformed economy. These years left marks not only on the land, but on the people who endured them. John Fremstad lived through a decade when perseverance replaced progress, and when simply continuing forward became its own form of achievement.

By the mid-1930s, hardship deepened. John's mother died in 1930. His older brother Edward died in 1935. That same decade brought the collapse of many small farms. By 1940, John had lost his homestead and was farming rented land in Scorio Township. The census recorded that he had been unemployed for much of the previous year and had worked on a WPA project, reflecting the dependence of many rural families on federal emergency work during the Depression.

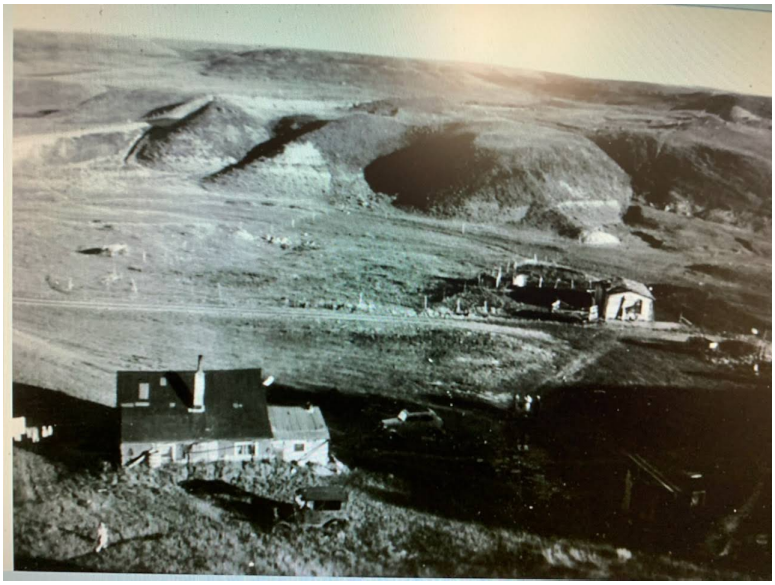


Figure 34
Fremstad House Outside Hanks, North Dakota

Family memory preserves the emotional cost of those years. One daughter recalled her father breaking down in tears when offered only five dollars apiece for yearling calves. Another remembered the move into town, the small rented houses, bedbugs, and $40 monthly wages from public works labor. After several years, the family returned briefly to a rural setting near the Sorenson Mine, keeping animals and gardens, before moving again.

FREMSTAD, John—His home, W224 Indiana ave. Survived by his wife, Hazel W. Fremstad at the home; 7 daughters, Mrs. Fred Greve of Luverne, Minn.; Mrs. Herbert Greve, Spokane; Mrs. Alfred Haney of Hank, N. D.; Mrs. Roy Reed of Independence, Mo.; Mrs. Jesse Glass of Kansas City, Mo.; Carol Mae and Mary Lou Fremstad at the home; 2 sons, Kermit Fremstad of Spokane; Donald Fremstad at the home; stepfather, Berdt Togstad; stepsister, Miss Julia Togstad, and stepbrother, Bennie Togstad, all of Brookings, S. D.; 11 grandchildren. Funeral, Mon., Jan. 23, at 11 a. m., in the HENNESSEY CHAPEL, N2203 Division st., the Rev. M. O. Ensberg officiating. Interment in Fairmount cemetery.

Figure 35
Obituary - John Fremstad

In August 1947, at the urging of family already there, John and Hazel moved to Spokane, Washington. John found work with the Spokane city street department. Hazel washed dishes, cleaned houses, and took in ironing. On 23 Oct 1949, they celebrated their thirtieth wedding anniversary. Three months later, **on 18 Jan 1950, John died** in Spokane of coronary thrombosis, following a brief illness (see Death certificate, Figure

84).

His funeral was held on a bitterly cold day. His passing closed a life that had stretched from cotter places in Hedmark to the wheat fields of North Dakota and finally to a western city street department. He had arrived as a boy alone. He left as the father of a large American family.

John's many names trace his journey. He was born Johan Pedersen, emigrated under forms such as Johan Togstad, sometimes appeared as Berntsen or Simensen, and in America chose Fremstad, almost certainly taken from his older brother and from a remembered Norwegian farm name. With that name he built his family, endured the prairie years, and carried his family through both hard times and good.

His life was not marked by prominence. It was marked by persistence.

Figure 36
John and Hazel Fremstad

In Front of Their House in Spokane. Believed to be taken on their 30th Anniversary, 23 Oct 1949.

Between 1920 and 1944, 10 children were born to John's and Hazel's household:

- Olive Hazel Fremstad - born 15 May 1920, died 27 Jun 2018, Luverne, Minnesota
- Eleanor Mae Fremstad - born 01 May 1921, died 01 May 1921, Grenora, North Dakota
- Laurel Marie Fremstad - born 21 Jan 1923, died 30 Jun 2010, Culbertson, Montana
- Hattie Josephine "Josie" Fremstad - born 28 May 1924, died 19 Feb 2019, Spokane, Washington
- John Kermit Fremstad - born 02 Jul 1926, died 28 Jun 1992, Fruitland, Idaho
- Phyllis Verene Fremstad - born 25 Jul 1928, died 02 Apr 2017, Missouri
- Norma Jean Fremstad - born 1930s
- Donald Fremstad - born 1930s
- Carol Mae Fremstad - born 1940s
- Mary Lou Fremstad - born 1940s

The Togstad Children

By the time the Togstad family was fully established in South Dakota, Marie and Bernt's household included children born in Norway who were coming of age in America, sons and daughters whose formative years bridged two continents, two languages, and two very different worlds. What they shared was a childhood grounded in labor, movement, and adaptation. From early ages they were expected to contribute, whether through farm work, household service, schooling, or wage labor beyond the home. Their lives unfolded within Norwegian-American communities where church, family, and work were tightly interwoven, and where identity was shaped as much by place as by kin.

There is no single "Togstad story" after childhood. The children came of age during a period of rapid change: the closing of the American frontier, the rise of railroads and market towns, the pressures of industrial labor, and the social disruptions that accompanied war, migration, and economic uncertainty. Some formed families and built stable households. Others struggled, drifted, or became entangled in institutions of care and control. Their adult lives reflect not only personal choices, but the uneven opportunities and hardships that confronted working-class immigrant families in the early twentieth century.

The stories that follow trace each child individually. They move away from the family as a unit and into the distinct paths taken by Julia, Christian, Bennie, Maren, and Sina. Together, their stories reveal the wide range of outcomes that could emerge from a single rural household: continuity and fracture, endurance and loss, stability and vulnerability. Taken as a whole, they form the second generation of Marie Kristiansdatter Togstad's life, carrying forward her legacy in ways she could not have foreseen.

Julia Togstad: A Life at Home

Julia Togstad was **born 08 Nov 1886** in Ottestad, Stange, Hedmark, Norway, the daughter of Marie Kristiansdatter and Bernt August Simensen Togstad. She was baptized 22 Apr 1886 in Ottestad (see Baptism record, Figure 85). She spent her earliest years within the rural farm world of the Lake Mjøsa district. In Sep 1897, at the age of 10, she emigrated with her mother and siblings to Toronto Township, Deuel County, South Dakota, joining a growing Norwegian immigrant settlement.

Figure 37
Julia Togstad

Julia came of age in eastern South Dakota during the final years of the frontier period. Her youth would have been shaped by household labor, farm work, and the close social life centered on Norwegian Lutheran congregations. For young women in immigrant

families, daily life meant long hours of cooking, washing, childcare, gardening, and often hired domestic service, with marriage widely regarded as the expected transition into adult security.

Julia was confirmed on 25 May 1902 at Leganger Lutheran Church in Toronto, Deuel County, South Dakota (see Confirmation record, Figure 89). By this time, she was 15, and had been in the United States for nearly 5 years.

Between 1905 and 1910, Julia's circumstances shifted in a way that mirrors the experience of many young women in rural Norwegian-American communities. In 1905, she was living away from home and working as a servant in Blom Township (adjacent to Scandinavia Township), indicating that she had entered the common pattern of young female wage labor. Farm and household service offered one of the few socially acceptable ways for unmarried women to earn income, gain experience, and relieve the economic burden on their parents' households.

Such positions often involved long days of cooking, cleaning, dairying, and childcare in exchange for room, board, and modest wages. By 1910, however, Julia had returned to her family's home and was no longer working for wages. Her return suggests either a renewed need for her labor within her own household or a shift in family circumstances that brought her back into the domestic economy rather than the hired one.

On **08 Oct 1911, Julia married Ole Sanden**, a Norwegian-born widower born in 1843, more than 40 years her senior (see Marriage record, Figure 86). Such marriages, while uncommon, were not unknown in immigrant communities, where household stability, economic necessity, and the care of aging men without wives could shape marital choices. For a young woman of limited means, marriage could promise security, though it could also bring isolation and responsibility. Little is known of Ole, but he appears to have been reasonably prosperous.

The marriage was very brief. Ole Sanden died on 07 Jan 1912, only 3 months after their wedding. Julia was widowed almost immediately, still a very young woman. In the early 20th century, widowhood often meant economic vulnerability rather than independence.

Julia returned to her parents' household, and the surviving records indicate that she never again left home. She remained living with her mother and father through the years that followed. After Marie's death on 11 Aug 1930, Julia continued to live in her father's household. No surviving records place her elsewhere. When she next appears, it is in the 1950 census, where she is still living with her father, Bernt Togstad, nearly 40 years after her brief marriage.

At 64 years of age, Julia Togstad **died on 16 Aug 1950**, only 2 months before her father's death. Her adult life was spent almost entirely within the family home. After a marriage that lasted only weeks, she returned to the household she had grown up in and remained there for the rest of her life. She was buried next to her father at Lake View Cemetery in Clear Lake, South Dakota, a final placement that reflects how closely her life, even in its ending, remained bound to his.

Figure 38
Grave Markers for Julia and Bernt Togstad
Lakeview Cemetery, Clear Lake, South Dakota

Julia's story reflects the narrow margins that shaped the lives of many immigrant women. Widowhood, limited property, and the demands of family left little room for independence. She crossed the Atlantic as a child, entered a marriage that ended almost before it began, and then spent nearly four decades within the same home, contributing her labor to the care and continuity of the family. Her life leaves only a faint paper trail, but it speaks quietly of duty, endurance, and the unseen work that held households together.

Christian Togstad: From Cottage to Railroad

Christian Togstad was **born 06 Sep 1887** in Stange, Hedmark, Norway, the son of Bernt Simensen and Marie Kristiansdatter. In his baptismal record his given name appears as Christian, and by Norwegian custom his surname would normally have been Berntsen (see Baptism record, Figure 87). Later records show his name variously as Chris, Christ, or Kristian, and at times his father's patronymic Simensen was used. After the family settled in America, Christian adopted the fixed surname Togstad, taken from the last Norwegian farm with which the family had been associated. That name first appears consistently in the American records beginning in 1900.

Figure 39
Stange Church

At the time of Christian's birth, his parents were living in a cottage at Gaustad farm in Stange, and he was almost certainly born there. He was baptized on 08 Apr 1888 at Stange Church, formally entering the Lutheran community that shaped nearly every aspect of rural life. By the 1891 census, when Christian was 4, he was living with his parents in Nes, Hedmark, at a place named Sveen, reflecting the family's continued movement among farm residences and cotter places.

Christian's early childhood unfolded during a period of planning and transition. His father left Norway in 1896, traveling to Toronto Township, Deuel County, South Dakota, to prepare for the family's emigration. On 20 Aug 1897, Christian, then 9, left Norway with his mother and siblings. They followed the normal Norwegian route: sailing from Norway to Hull aboard the *SS Angelo*, crossing England by rail to Liverpool, then boarding the *SS State of California* for the Atlantic passage to Quebec. From there they would have gone by river steamer to Montreal, by train across Ontario to Windsor, crossed into Detroit, and continued by rail through Chicago to eastern South Dakota, where Bernt was waiting.

Figure 40
Ed Fremstad and Chris Togstad

By 1900, Christian was living in Scandinavia Township, Deuel County, South Dakota (see 1900 Census, Figure 88). At 13, he was attending school, a notable opportunity for a boy who had grown up in a household shaped by farm labor and migration. The Togstad children were coming of age in a Norwegian-American settlement world where church, school, and farm households formed the center of social life.

On 25 May 1902, Christian was confirmed at Leganger Lutheran Church in Toronto, South Dakota, alongside his sister Julia (see Confirmation record, Figure 89). In Norwegian-American communities, confirmation marked the formal entry into adult life. After confirmation, young men were socially recognized as workers rather than children, eligible for long-term farm employment and adult participation in the congregation.

By the time of the 1910 census, Christian, then 23, was working as a hired man for Chester Waller, a farmer in Scandinavia Township. Hired farm labor in eastern South Dakota meant year-round physical work: caring for livestock, maintaining buildings and fences, hauling fuel and water, and working long days in the fields during planting and harvest.

On **10 Dec 1914, Christian married Carrie Estensen** in Toronto, Deuel County, South Dakota (see Marriage License, Figure 90). Carrie had been born in Northern Township, Deuel County, now known as Norden Township, placing her childhood within the same local Norwegian community near Brandt and Toronto (see figure 15 #2 and #5). The marriage record indicates that

Christian was living near Brandt at the time, suggesting continued ties to the settlement belt where his family had first established itself.

By 1920, Christian and Carrie had moved east to Vienna Township, Rock County, Minnesota, immediately northeast of Luverne. There Christian reported his occupation as section foreman, a position associated with railroad maintenance. Section crews were responsible for keeping miles of track in working order: replacing ties, aligning rails, clearing snow, repairing washouts, and walking the line daily to identify damage. A section foreman supervised men, kept records, and coordinated repairs. Railroad work provided steadier wages than farm labor, though it carried physical risk and demanded work in all weather.

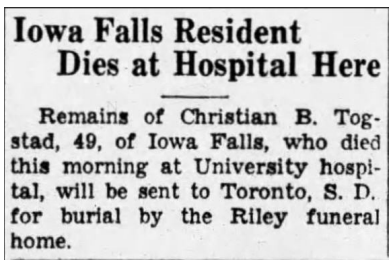
By 1922, at the birth of their daughter, Christian and Carrie were back in Deuel County, South Dakota, showing that their lives, like those of many railroad families, were shaped by movement along rail lines rather than permanent settlement. Sometime between 1926 and 1930, they relocated again, this time to Armstrong Grove, Emmet County, Iowa, about 20 miles south of Luverne. Christian continued working for the railroad, part of a regional network of maintenance crews that supported agricultural shipping and passenger traffic across southern Minnesota and northern Iowa.

Christian's Children:

- Bernice Evangeline Togstad - born 12 Dec 1922 and died 12 Jul 2003, Estherville, Iowa
- Virgil Mervall Togstad - born 04 Sep 1926 and died 04 Feb 2004, St. Paul, Minnesota

In 1930, Christian's older half-brother Edward Fremstad was also working for the railroad in Luverne, Minnesota, placing the brothers once again within the same occupational world, if not the same town. Railroad employment had become a shared family path, offering regular income at a time when small farming had grown increasingly uncertain.

Christian Togstad **died on 11 Jun 1937** in Iowa City, Johnson County, Iowa, of leukemia. He was 49. He was buried at Wood Lake Cemetery in Deuel County, South Dakota. His death ended a life that had stretched from a cottage under Gaustad farm in Stange to the rail corridors of the Upper Midwest.



Iowa Falls Resident Dies at Hospital Here

Remains of Christian B. Togstad, 49, of Iowa Falls, who died this morning at University hospital, will be sent to Toronto, S. D. for burial by the Riley funeral home.

Figure 41

After Christian's Death

Christian's death in 1937, at the age of 49, marked a turning point in his wife Carrie's life. Leukemia did not simply take a husband. It removed the central economic support of the household. In the years before modern treatments, such an illness often meant prolonged decline, mounting strain, and then sudden finality. When Christian died, Carrie was left to hold together a family in a world still struggling through the long shadow of the Great Depression, when work was uncertain, relief systems were thin, and widows with children occupied one of the most precarious positions in American society.

After Christian's death, Carrie and her children moved to Estherville, Iowa. Carrie came under the scrutiny of local authorities in Estherville. The Emmet County, Iowa Board of Supervisors issued a settlement warning, also known as a "warning out".

The settlement warning didn't expel the person from the county, but it stated that the county would not accept financial responsibility for the person. If that person needed poor relief, the cost would be charged to the county where they had legal settlement.

Towns and counties were legally responsible for supporting residents who could not provide for themselves, but they were also deeply concerned about limiting those obligations. They enforced what were known as “legal settlement” laws, rules that determined which town or county was financially responsible for a person. When officials believed someone did not legally “belong” to their jurisdiction, they could initiate formal proceedings to deny responsibility or to shift that burden elsewhere. After Christian was gone, Carrie and her children came under this kind of scrutiny.

The county formally acted against her, not as a criminal, but as a potential public charge. On paper, the language was administrative and procedural. In actual experience, it meant that Carrie’s circumstances as a widow were examined, discussed, and entered into official record. Her right to remain in a community, and the question of whether that community would support her family, were formally weighed. She may have been summoned, questioned, or simply ruled upon in meetings she never attended. Her household, her movements, and her economic condition became matters of public record.

This episode situates Carrie within a broader historical reality. Widows were among those most frequently drawn into poor-law systems. After Christian’s death, Carrie was navigating sorrow, responsibility, and uncertainty while authorities evaluated her family in terms of cost and legal obligation. What survives in the documents is only the legal outline of that moment. Behind it stood a woman confronting the collapse of one life structure and the pressure of another, at a time when personal tragedy could quickly become a public matter.

October 4, 1938

Board met pursuant to adjournment with all members present as follows: E. S. Camden, E. I. Ellerston and N. O. Osher.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lewis Woodruff, Mrs. Carrie Togstad, Bernice and Virgil Togstead are now living in Emmet County, Iowa, without having acquired a settlement therein and,

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board of Supervisors of Emmet County, Iowa, to prevent the acquiring thereof by the said parties and their respective dependents, it is moved and seconded that notice be served in accordance with Code Sections 5315 and 5316 and that the Chairman is hereby authorized to sign same on behalf of this Board.

The foregoing resolution was adopted upon motion of Osher, second of Ellerston, all voting "Aye."

On motion, Board adjourned to meet tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock A. M.

GLADYS M. BRINGLE,
County Auditor

Figure 42
Notice to Prevent Legal Settlement - Carrie Togstad

Carrie did remain in the Estherville for the rest of her life, continuing the family's connection to the communities where Christian had spent his working years.

Christian's life reflects a generational shift within the Togstad family. Born into the Norwegian farm world, he was raised in an immigrant farming settlement, then moved into railroad labor as the countryside industrialized. His path from cottage child to section foreman traces the quiet transformation of work in the rural Midwest, where maintaining the lines that carried grain and goods became as vital as working the fields themselves.

Bernhard "Bennie" Adolf Togstad: A Troubled Path

Bernhard Adolf Togstad was **born 25 Mar 1890** in Nes, Hedmark, the son of Bernt Simensen and Marie Kristiansdatter, born on the Sandvold farm. He was baptized on 15 Jul 1890 in Nes parish (see Baptism record, Figure 91).

In 1897, at the age of 7, Bennie emigrated to America with his parents and siblings and settled in Toronto Township, Deuel County, South Dakota. After the family's arrival, he adopted the fixed surname Togstad, first appearing under that name in the 1900 census. That census places him, at 10, living at home in Scandinavia Township, attending school.

By 1910, at 20, Bennie was living with his family in Grange Township, Deuel County, working on the family farm. His nickname "Bennie" appears for the first time in this census. In 1917, he stated on his World War I draft registration that he was working as a farm laborer for Louis Texly near Toronto, South Dakota. A year later, in 1918, he filed a Declaration of Intention to become a United States citizen, stating that he was still farming in the Toronto area (see Naturalization record, Figure 92). No later petition or oath has been found, and there is no evidence that he ever completed the naturalization process, leaving his citizenship status unresolved.

The Spanish Flu Pandemic on the Northern Plains

Just as the Great War was drawing to a close in 1918, a different kind of enemy swept across the world and into the heart of the northern plains. The Spanish flu pandemic, caused by a virulent strain of influenza, became one of the deadliest health crises in modern history, killing millions worldwide and hundreds of thousands in the United States. The illness was unusual in that it

Figure 43
Beds with patients in an emergency hospital in Camp Funston, Kansas, in the midst of the influenza epidemic, about 1918.

disproportionately struck people between 15 and 44 years of age, the most active and vital members of communities nation-wide.

Although often thought of as a crisis of crowded cities, the pandemic reached deeply into farming regions as well. In South Dakota, the flu spread rapidly through towns, railroad lines, and counties in the fall of 1918, ultimately causing about 1,847 confirmed deaths, making influenza the leading cause of death in the state that year. Entire families often became ill at once, and local newspapers recorded sudden clusters of funerals, school closures, and bans on public gatherings as officials struggled to contain the epidemic.

For farm laborers like Bennie and the families he worked with, the pandemic brought fear, uncertainty, and disruption. Harvest chores and livestock care could not wait, even as fever took parents and siblings from their chores. With doctors few and far between, neighbors relied on one another for food, medicines, and basic care while trying to shield the young and elderly from infection. Crops still had to be harvested and barns still needed repairing, but every trip into town carried risk of exposure. The pandemic blurred the distinction between home and hazard, as even funerals became dangerous gatherings, and many communities banned meetings of any kind to try to slow the deadly virus.

For Bennie, the Spanish flu years were not just a national calamity; they were a lived reality on the farm and in every township and county where laborers, farmers, and their families struggled to keep food on the table and neighbors alive. The virus tested the resilience of rural society - reminding everyone that isolation did not guarantee safety, and that even the wide open plains could not shield a community from a global crisis.

The 1920 census found Bennie 30 years old, living in Brookings, South Dakota, at home, without an occupation.

The first serious setback in Bennie's adult life appears in 1923, when he was 33. He was sentenced to a year in prison for passing bad checks. Such offenses in this period were often associated with economic strain, unstable employment, and at times substance abuse among single laborers without steady wages or property. The 1925 South Dakota census again lists him as a farmer, working as a laborer, suggesting a return to agricultural work following his first imprisonment.

On **16 Mar 1929, at the age of 39, Bennie married Ethel Sorenson**, age 15, in Brookings, South Dakota. She had been born 18 Jan 1914 in Putnam, Illinois (see Marriage record, Figure 93). The marriage appears to have been brief and unstable, and the couple did not establish a lasting household.

GIVEN YEAR ON FORGERY CHARGE

Bennie Togstad Sentenced to Penitentiary—Pleaded Guilty in Circuit Court

Bennie Togstad was sentenced by Judge John T. Medin, to serve one year in the state penitentiary after he pleaded guilty to the charge of forgery in the third degree, this morning in circuit court. Togstad is said to be a farm hand and it is alleged that he cashed a forged check for $20 on August 16, at the H. L. Lewis drug store in Hartford. The check was drawn in favor of Ben Thompson and signed William Lewin. He was arraigned before Judge Gibbs yesterday morning and waived hearing being bound over to the circuit court with his bond fixed at $2,500. George Erickson was appointed by the court as attorney for the defendant.

Figure 44
Bennie Togstad Given Year on Forgery Charge

On 31 Aug 1929, Bennie was again arrested for forging a check. When questioned, he reportedly stated, "I had been drinking canned heat and I guess it gives me a criminal tendency." Canned heat, a fuel product sometimes consumed as a substitute alcohol during the era, was extremely dangerous and toxic. His statement points to severe desperation and impairment rather than criminal sophistication.

Following this arrest, Bennie was sentenced to 5 years in the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls. On 10 Apr 1930, he was recorded there as an inmate, listing his marital status as married. Records indicate that he ultimately spent more than 5 years in prison, though the reason for the extended confinement is not known.

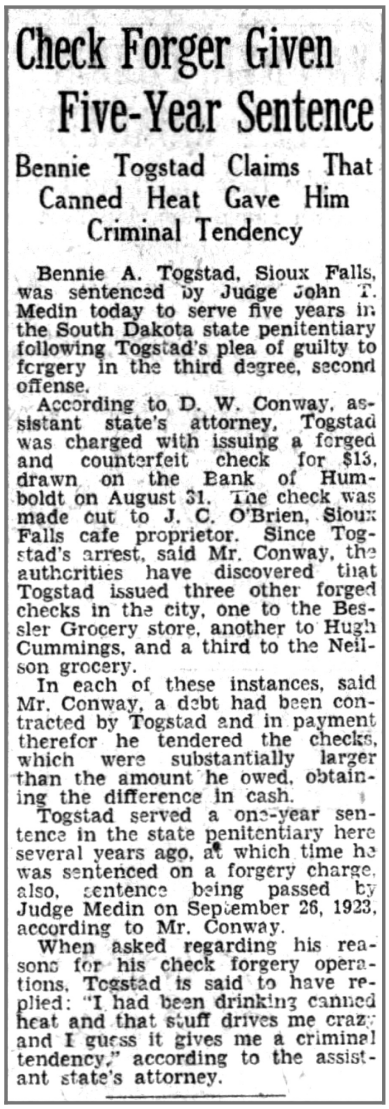
This second imprisonment came during a year of extraordinary collapse for the Togstad family. Bennie entered long-term incarceration. His sister Sina was committed to an institution. His mother Marie died on 11 Aug 1930. Other family members vanish from the local record. The household that had endured for more than 30 years unraveled almost at once.

Sometime after 1940, Bennie was finally released from prison. He later appears in Minnesota, and he **died on 23 Mar 1949** in Minneapolis, Minnesota, just 2 days short of his 59th birthday. He died 6 months before his sister Sina, and about a year before his sister Julia and father.

The location of his gravesite has not been able to be determined. The absence of a known burial place often reflects the circumstances of a person's final years. For men who died with limited family contact, few resources, or unstable living situations, burial might be handled by the county or a charitable institution, with records that were poorly kept or later lost. In Bennie's case, the missing gravesite underscores the isolation suggested by his later life and leaves his story without a physical place of remembrance.

Bennie's life reflects the precarious edge that often lay beneath immigrant stability. He crossed the Atlantic as a child, attended school, and labored in the agricultural world of eastern South Dakota. Unlike siblings who established long-term households or steady employment, his adult years were marked by repeated financial trouble, substance abuse, and incarceration. His story stands at the center of the Togstad family's most difficult decade, when economic strain, institutionalization, and death converged.

Though the records do not tell us how he lived after his release, they preserve the outline of a life shaped by hardship and vulnerability. Bennie's path reminds us that the immigrant experience was never



Check Forger Given Five-Year Sentence

Bennie Togstad Claims That Canned Heat Gave Him Criminal Tendency

Bennie A. Togstad, Sioux Falls, was sentenced by Judge John T. Medin today to serve five years in the South Dakota state penitentiary following Togstad's plea of guilty to forgery in the third degree, second offense.

According to D. W. Conway, assistant state's attorney, Togstad was charged with issuing a forged and counterfeit check for $15, drawn on the Bank of Humboldt on August 31. The check was made out to J. C. O'Brien, Sioux Falls cafe proprietor. Since Togstad's arrest, said Mr. Conway, the authorities have discovered that Togstad issued three other forged checks in the city, one to the Bessler Grocery store, another to Hugh Cummings, and a third to the Neilson grocery.

In each of these instances, said Mr. Conway, a debt had been contracted by Togstad and in payment therefor he tendered the checks, which were substantially larger than the amount he owed, obtaining the difference in cash.

Togstad served a one-year sentence in the state penitentiary here several years ago, at which time he was sentenced on a forgery charge, also, sentence being passed by Judge Medin on September 26, 1923, according to Mr. Conway.

When asked regarding his reasons for his check forgery operations, Togstad is said to have replied: "I had been drinking canned heat and that stuff drives me crazy and I guess it gives me a criminal tendency," according to the assistant state's attorney.

Figure 45
Bennie Togstad Sentencing

uniform, and that beneath the surface of family endurance lay stories of struggle that official documents only partly reveal.

Maren Emilie Berntsdatter: A Brief Life

Maren Emilie Berntsdatter was **born 21 Mar 1892** at Togstad farm in Stange, Hedmark, Norway, the daughter of Bernt Simensen and Marie Kristiansdatter. She was baptized on 15 Apr 1892 at Stange Church, formally entered into the Lutheran parish record only weeks after her birth (see Baptism record, Figure 94).

Her brief life unfolded during the family's last years in Norway, a period marked by frequent moves between farms and cotter places. The death record later noted that she had been born at Kaaterudeie and was residing at Tokstadeie at the time of her death.

Maren **died on 23 Mar 1893**, only 2 days after her first birthday. The parish record lists the cause of death as pneumonia. She was buried on 01 Apr 1893 (see Church record, Figure 95).

Stange and neighboring parishes formed part of a densely settled agricultural district along Lake Mjøsa where infant mortality remained a familiar and painful reality. Respiratory illness, digestive infections, and childhood fevers frequently claimed the lives of young children in the early 1890s, particularly among working families whose housing and nutrition were often uncertain.

When Marie and her surviving children emigrated to America in 1897, Maren was no longer with them. The 1900 United States census confirms this loss. In that census Marie reported that she had borne 5 children, of whom only 4 were living. Those 4 correspond to the children who arrived in South Dakota.

Maren therefore stands as the one child lost in Norway. Her short life reminds us that the family's story already carried sorrow before their journey to America began.

Sina Togstad: Loss, Isolation, and Institutional Life

Sina Berntsdatter was **born 26 Apr 1894** in Stange, Hedmark, the daughter of Bernt Simensen and Marie Kristiansdatter. In her birth and baptismal record her name is spelled Sina, though in most later records it appears as Sena. At the time of her birth, both of her parents were living at Tokstadeie, a cottage place under Tokstad farm. Tokstad is a common alternative spelling of Togstad. She was baptized on 12 Aug 1894 at Ottestad Church, a parish within Stange (see Baptism record, Figure 96).

In 1897, when Sina was only 3, she left Norway with her mother and siblings. They departed on 20 Aug 1897, following the established Norwegian route to eastern South Dakota. Her remembered life would begin not in Norway, but in the Norwegian-American settlements of Deuel County, South Dakota.

By the 1900 census, Sina was 5, living with her family in Scandinavia Township, Deuel County. In

the 1910 census, at 15, she was living with her family in Grange Township, and was recorded as able to read and write, reflecting schooling within the immigrant community. The 1915 South Dakota census places her in Toronto, South Dakota, at 21, and the Jan 1920 census shows her, at 25, living with her family in the town of Brookings. There is no record that she ever took a job outside of home.

The 1920 census had been recorded in January 1920. Within months of that census, Sina's life changed permanently.

In May 1920, Sina gave birth to her first son, Marvin. About a year later she had a second son, John. The South Dakota birth index names Martin Andersen as Marvin's father. John's father is not identified in any surviving records. Sina was an unmarried mother in a period when such circumstances brought heavy social stigma, financial hardship, and family strain.

Sometime between 1921 and 1925, Sina was committed to the Redfield State Hospital in Redfield, South Dakota. The 1925 South Dakota census records her there with both of her sons, all classified with the terminology of the time, which is now more appropriately understood as having mental impairments (see 1925 Census, Figure 97). The same classification appears again in 1930, 1935, and 1940 (see 1940 Census, Figure 98). Whatever combination of illness, disability, trauma, or institutional policy lay behind her commitment, the result was lifelong confinement.

Figure 46
Redfield State Hospital

Her sons remained with her at Redfield throughout their childhood. Marvin was released around 1941. John followed around 1942. After their departures, Sina remained alone at Redfield for the remainder of her life.

Eugenics and the World That Judged Sina

In the early decades of the 20th century, many Americans, including educators, physicians, and social reformers associated with the Progressive movement, embraced a theory known as eugenics. Eugenics claimed that traits such as intelligence, morality, poverty, criminal behavior, and mental illness were primarily inherited and that society could be "improved" by encouraging the reproduction of the "fit" and restricting that of the "unfit." At the time, these ideas were widely presented as modern, scientific, and humane. In reality, they were built on deeply flawed science and were shaped by class prejudice, disability stigma, and fear of social dependency.

Under this way of thinking, people who struggled intellectually, emotionally, or socially were often not seen as individuals shaped by environment, trauma, illness, or circumstance. They were categorized. Labels such as “feebleminded,” “defective,” or “unfit” were applied broadly and casually. Those labels followed people into school systems, courtrooms, hospitals, and census records. Once applied, they could justify institutionalization, loss of legal rights, forced separation from family, and in some states even involuntary sterilization. These practices were not fringe policies. They were debated in legislatures, endorsed by respected professionals, and implemented by public institutions.

Sina lived in a period when this mindset was influential. If she struggled, behaved differently, or required care, her condition would likely have been interpreted through a eugenic lens rather than a medical or social one. Instead of asking what had happened to her, what support she needed, or what strengths she possessed, authorities often asked whether she fit into society at all. In that climate, a woman like Sina could quickly be defined by a diagnosis rather than by her humanity. Her identity, in official records, may have been reduced to a category.

Understanding this context does not explain Sina. It explains the system that judged her. It reminds us that many of the conclusions recorded about people in her position say as much about the fears and theories of the age as they do about the individuals themselves. Eugenics shaped how communities, institutions, and even families were encouraged to think. Sina’s story unfolded inside that framework, one that too often confused social difficulty with biological destiny and substituted control for compassion.

Sina **died at the Redfield State Hospital on 09 Mar 1949** of pulmonary tuberculosis, a disease that remained a major cause of death in long-term institutions well into the 20th century. She was buried at the Redfield State Hospital Home and School Cemetery.

Figure 47

Sina had entered the institution in her late 20s and died there at 54, having spent more than 20 years confined within its walls.

Her life traces one of the hardest paths in the Togstad family. She crossed the Atlantic as a child, grew up in a Norwegian-American farm household, and reached adulthood within the shelter of her family. Then, within only a few years, she bore 2 children, lost her place in ordinary household life, and entered an institution from which she would never return.

Sina's story reflects a broader historical reality. In the early 20th century, women who were poor, unmarried, ill, or overwhelmed often had few options beyond institutional care. State hospitals became places where social problems, mental illness, disability, and poverty came together. Once admitted, especially with children also confined, release became difficult. Families were often encouraged, and sometimes pressured, to leave relatives in state care. Records thinned. Individual lives faded into administrative language.

Sina did not disappear, but she was removed from the world her family knew. She lived long enough to see both of her sons leave the institution. She did not live long enough to leave it herself. Within the Togstad story, Sina stands at the center of the family's most painful decade. Her commitment coincided with Bennie's repeated imprisonments and Marie's death. Together they mark the moment when a household that had survived migration, labor, and poverty finally fractured.

Sina's life reminds us that family history is not only the story of endurance and settlement, but also of those who were set aside, confined, and largely forgotten. Her name survives in parish books, censuses, and hospital registers. Her life unfolded where those systems met.

Sina's Children:

- Marvin Togstad - born 8 May 1920, died 30 Dec 1978, Brookings, South Dakota
- John Togstad - born 27 Sep 1921, died 12 Mar 1999, Brookings, South Dakota

The Togstads: One Household, Many Fates

The lives of the Togstad children unfolded across a wide and uneven terrain. They began in the shifting farm world of Hedmark, were uprooted as children, and were reshaped by the immigrant settlements of eastern South Dakota. Their early years shared common ground: cotter places and farmyards in Norway, a long Atlantic crossing, childhoods of labor and schooling in Norwegian-American communities. From that common beginning, their adult lives diverged sharply.

Some found relative stability. Christian moved from farm labor into railroad work, built a household with Carrie, and raised children while following the rail lines of the Upper Midwest. Julia's life remained almost entirely within the family home, interrupted only briefly by a marriage that ended almost as soon as it began. Her long return to her parents' household speaks to the limited avenues open to many women whose security depended less on opportunity than on family structure.

Others traveled harder paths. Bennie's adulthood was marked by financial instability, repeated convictions for passing bad checks, and long imprisonment. His life traces the fragility that lay beneath immigrant respectability, where illness, addiction, and poverty could erode the narrow margins that separated stability from collapse.

Sina's story is more severe still. After giving birth to 2 sons, she entered the Redfield State Hospital and remained there for more than 20 years, dying within its walls. Her life reflects the era's readiness to remove the poor, the overwhelmed, and the disabled from ordinary society and place them in institutions that became permanent worlds of their own.

Taken together, the Togstad children do not tell a single story of success or failure. They tell a truer one. They show how the same household could produce steadiness and fracture, endurance and confinement, continuity and disappearance. Their lives were shaped not only by character, but by the thinness of economic margins, by health, by the limits of social support, and by the institutions that absorbed those who could not be sustained within family life. The Togstad children carried their mother's migration into many different futures. Together, they form the human landscape of that decision: not a single destination, but a wide and uneven field of lives.

After Marie: The Lives of Mathias Andersen and Peder Jensen

This section turns away from Marie and her family and follows the lives of the 2 men who first crossed her path: Mathias Andersen and Peder Jensen. Both men entered her story briefly but consequentially, each becoming the father of a son before moving on to lives that unfolded beyond her household. What became of them after those early years is not incidental. Their later choices, families, and migrations shaped the futures of their children and echo through the generations that followed. The pages that follow trace the courses their lives took after their connections with Marie, restoring them not only as names in baptismal records, but as men whose stories continued long after they passed out of her daily life.

Mathias Andersen: A Life Rooted at Mengshoel

Mathias Andersen was **born 04 Aug 1848** at Mengshoeleie, Nes, Hedmark, Norway, a cotter place under the Mengshoel farm. His father was Anders Nilsen Anstensen, and his mother was Berte Olsdatter. He was baptized on 19 Nov 1848 in Nes parish and confirmed there on 04 Oct 1863, marking his formal entry into adulthood (see Baptism record, Figure 99).

Mathias was firmly within the laboring class of rural Nes. In the 1865 census, at 17, he was living at Mengshoel, no longer in his parents' household, and working as a day laborer. This early separation from the parental home reflects a common pattern in rural Norway, where young people often entered service or hired work in their teens.

The 1875 census again places him at Mengshoel, age 27. On the same farm lived a young servant woman, Maria Johannesdatter, who would soon become his wife.

Coming of the Norwegian Railway

Shortly after Mathias's birth, in the autumn of 1854, Norway marked a major step into the modern age with the opening of its first railway line, the Hovedbanen, or Trunk Line. On 01 Sep 1854, the first steam-powered train left Christiania (today's Oslo) and ran north to Eidsvoll, beginning public rail travel in Norway. This event did more than introduce a new machine. It began altering how people, work, and opportunity moved across the country, including in the inland districts where Mathias would grow up.

Figure 48
Rallars

Mathias' son-in-law, Mathias Bruvold, is pictured to the far right.

The idea of a railway had once seemed unlikely in a country of forests, lakes, and scattered farms. By the early 1850s, economic pressure and industrial ambition pushed the project forward. Built with British engineering expertise and modern equipment, the line linked the capital with timber regions to the north and connected directly with steamboat traffic on Lake Mjøsa. For rural Norway, this created a new corridor of movement. Goods that once took days by wagon or boat could now reach markets in hours. Information traveled faster. Seasonal workers moved more easily. Areas that had long felt remote were drawn more tightly into the national economy.

For cotters and laborers like Mathias, the railway represented both opportunity and disruption. It expanded demand for timber, farm products, and transport services, increasing the need for hired hands. Men who owned no land could find work not only on farms, but also in logging, hauling, dock labor, construction, and service jobs linked to rail and lake traffic. Wages, though often modest, were paid in cash, which could be used to settle debts, buy goods, or finance movement between districts. The railway also made mobility easier. A young laborer could travel farther in search of work, rather than remaining tied entirely to the nearest parish.

At the same time, this growing connectivity sharpened economic contrasts. Larger farms and merchants benefitted most from easier access to markets, while cotters remained dependent on temporary labor and vulnerable to downturns. As production increased and commercial farming expanded, pressure on marginal households often grew rather than eased. For people like Mathias, life unfolded within this tension: more work circulating through the countryside, more exposure to towns and trade, but continued insecurity. The railway did not lift cotters out of hardship, but it placed them inside a faster, more demanding economy.

The opening of the Trunk Line signaled a shift in how Norway functioned. Distance shrank. Labor moved. Rural life became more closely tied to national markets. In Mathias's own family, this transformation would eventually take on a personal form. One of his sons-in-law, Mathias Bruvold, found employment on the railways as a rallar, a laborer who built and maintained the expanding rail network. What began as a distant sign of change during Mathias's childhood ultimately became part of his family's livelihood. For a boy born into the working class, this changing landscape meant that his life, and the lives that followed, were shaped not only by local farms and parishes, but by wider forces pulling people, goods, and ambitions along iron rails toward cities, ports, and, for many, toward America.

Railroads - High Tech of the Times

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, railroads represented the most advanced technology of their time. Locomotives, telegraph communications, and large-scale transportation networks required sophisticated engineering and coordination, making the railroad industry the technological frontier of the era. Many people were drawn to railroad work because it offered the chance to work with modern machinery and participate in a rapidly transforming industry, much as computers and information technology attract workers today.

Mathias married Maria Johannesdatter on 05 Jan 1876 at Nes Church (see Marriage record, Figure 100). She was living at the Fossum cottage at the time of their marriage. Weeks

later, Maria gave birth to their first child, Agnethe, a birth that followed the wedding and was therefore fully in wedlock, even though the child had been conceived before the marriage, as was recognized under Norwegian church and civil practice.

Two months later, on 10 Apr 1876, another child, Even Mathiassen, was born, this time to Marie Kristiansdatter. Even's birth tied Mathias permanently into Marie's story, though it did not draw him away from the life he was building at Mengshoel.

After his brief involvement with Marie Kristiansdatter, Mathias's recorded life shows remarkable stability. In 1891, he took over as cotter from his father, formally assuming responsibility for the cottage holding at Mengshoeleie. Every later census and his death record place him there, indicating that he remained on the same farm for more than 30 years. The 1891 and 1900 censuses both list him at Mengshoeleie with his wife and children (see 1900 Census, Figure 101). All surviving records suggest that he spent his entire adult life within the Mengshoel farm community, working the same land and remaining under the same parish jurisdiction.

This constancy stands in contrast to the mobility that characterized Marie's life and that of their son Even. While Marie moved between farms and eventually across an ocean, Mathias stayed. His world remained bounded by Nes, Stavsjø church, and the Mengshoel holdings. Such rootedness was not unusual among cotters and laborers who secured long-term places on established farms. It offered continuity of work, parish ties, and community identity, even when it offered little economic advancement.

Mathias Andersen **died on 06 Sep 1910.** He was buried on 17 Sep 1910, with the burial recorded in the Stavsjø parish register, the church district serving the Mengshoel area (see Church record, Figure 102). His death closed a life that appears, in the surviving records, to have unfolded almost entirely within the same geographic and social circle in which it began.

Figure 49
Maria Johannesdatter

After his brief intersection with Marie's life, Mathias's path returned to the familiar rhythms of rural Nes. He married, raised children, and remained at Mengshoel until his death. His story is not one of migration or reinvention, but of continuity. He represents the many rural Norwegians whose lives remained anchored to a single farm and parish, even as others from the same communities departed for America. Through him, the family's story retains one firm root in the Norwegian soil from which it first grew.

Children of Mathias and Marie Johannesdatter

Although the individual lives of Mathias Andersen and Maria Johannesdatter's children remain largely untraced, the setting in which they grew up is unusually well defined. They were born and raised at Mengshoeleie in Nes, Hedmark, where the family appears consistently in the censuses and parish records from the 1870s through Mathias's death in 1910. Their childhood and adult lives unfolded within the stable world of a cotter household attached to a long-established farm. This environment shaped nearly every aspect of daily life.

For children growing up on a cotter place in the late nineteenth century, life was centered on labor. From early ages they would have participated in tending animals, gathering firewood, carrying water, watching younger siblings, and assisting with seasonal work such as haying and harvest. Schooling had become legally required in Norway by the mid-1800s, and they would have attended local schools when available, though attendance was often irregular and secondary to farm needs. Confirmation in adolescence marked not only religious maturity but also readiness for full participation in the adult labor system. After confirmation, sons often entered service on nearby farms or continued working under their father's holding, while daughters commonly went into household service in neighboring districts.

Their adult years would have spanned a period of enormous change. Between 1880 and 1960, rural Norway moved from a largely subsistence-based agricultural society toward mechanization, market integration, and urban migration. Roads improved, railways connected inland districts to towns, and cash wages increasingly supplemented traditional farm arrangements. Some of Mathias's children likely remained in agricultural work, while others may have sought employment in nearby towns or industrial centers such as Hamar, Gjøvik, or even farther afield. The pull of emigration was strong during their youth, but unlike Marie's children, they remained in Norway, their lives shaped not by departure but by gradual transformation.

They also lived through defining national experiences. The dissolution of the union with Sweden in 1905, the First World War years of scarcity, the interwar economic struggles, and the German occupation during the Second World War would all have touched their adult lives. Even those who never left Nes would have felt these events through rationing, labor demands, shifting markets, and political uncertainty. The Norway they knew in youth was not the Norway they inhabited in middle and old age.

While most of their individual stories remain to be written, the continuity of place suggests lives rooted in community, parish, and extended family. Unlike Marie's children, whose histories are marked by separation, migration, and institutional crossings, Mathias and Maria's children represent the branch of the family that stayed. Their experiences remind us that for every Norwegian who crossed the Atlantic, many more remained, adapting to a changing rural world. Their lives form the unbroken Norwegian thread of this family's history, carrying it forward on the same soil where it had already taken root generations before.

- Agnethe Mathiasdatter Mengshoel - born 11 Feb 1876, died 22 Dec 1961, Grua, Oppland, Norway

- Johannes Mathiassen - born 10 May 1878, died 31 Oct 1957, Gjøvik, Oppland, Norway
- Bernhard Mathiassen - born 7 Oct 1880, died 13 Oct 1887, Mengshoeleie, Nes, Hedmark, Norway
- Karen Mathiasdatter - born 19 May 1883, died 05 Jan 1968, Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway
- Martin Mathiassen - born 6 Aug 1886, died 8 Apr 1961, Bakkevik, Nes, Hedmark, Norway
- Mauritz Mathiassen - born 16 Apr 1892, died 23 Nov 1931, Vardal, Oppland, Norway
- Karl Mathiassen - born 20 Nov 1894, died 20 Feb 1910, Mengshoeleie, Nes, Hedmark, Norway

The Story of Agnethe Mathiasdatter and Mathias C. Bruvold

Kari Bruvold, of Trysil, Norway provided the following account of Mathias Andersen's daughter, Agnethe Mathiasdatter:

Agnethe was **born on February 11, 1876**, at Mengshoeleie in Nes, located in Hedmark County, Norway. As the eldest of seven children, she took on responsibility early. She was confirmed on October 5, 1890, at Nes Church, and moved to Gjøvik later that same year. In Gjøvik, she worked as a domestic servant and nanny for Master Watchmaker Johannes Mohn and his wife, helping care for their six children. She later spent two years working for a local merchant, H.B. Falk. It was during her time in Gjøvik that she met Mathias.

Figure 50
Agnethe and Mathias Bruvold
25th Anniversary

Mathias was born on April 10, 1876, at Tollefsrudhaugen in Ringebu, Oppland County, Norway. He was confirmed at Ringebu Church on May 5, 1891. In those days, it was customary to enter the workforce immediately after confirmation. Mathias's first job was as a farmhand; his annual salary consisted of 20 Norwegian kroner, one suit, a pair of shoes, socks, and mittens. His daily meals were simple: porridge, potatoes, and pickled herring.

At seventeen, Mathias moved to Lillehammer for work, where he earned 2 kroner a day. Eventually, he moved to Gjøvik to work at the Toten Cellulose factory, where he met Agnethe.

The couple **married on August 20, 1898.** Because Agnethe had withdrawn her membership from the State Church of Norway just days earlier and had not joined another denomination, they were married in a civil ceremony.

Mathias dreamed of becoming a "rallar" - a traveling construction navvy [laborer] - because the pay was significantly better. However, the work required him to travel constantly, keeping him away from home for long periods. In 1902, the couple moved to Grua in Hedmark. Mathias had secured a job working on the Christiania Water Association's tunnel through Nordmarka. It was here that he began building the house that would remain their home for the rest of their lives.

Figure 51
Mathias Bruvold (far right) was immortalized on a Norwegian Stamp

The lot was nothing but solid rock and stone. The house was completed in 1905, and in 1912, they were able to purchase the land itself for 30 kroner, paid in cash.

At the time, Agnethe may have been the only one who believed the rocky ground could ever become a flourishing garden. Through immense effort, she made it happen. While her husband was away working most of the week and she was busy raising their many children, Agnethe dedicated her spare time to the land. She carried soil to the garden bucket by bucket, eventually transforming the landscape. As the children grew up and moved out, her vegetable patches and potato fields gradually gave way to flowers. She was a "natural-born gardener" with an impressive herb garden. As soon as the snow melted, she was outside working, and no one found more joy in the first blooms of spring than she did.

On the occasion of her 85th birthday, a local newspaper tribute noted:
"Agnethe is a truly kind soul who is happiest when she can bring joy to others, a quality she demonstrates constantly."

She loved giving gifts to friends, neighbors, and local organizations in Grua. In addition to gardening, she was a skilled craftswoman, known for her beautiful hand-stitched tablecloths and crocheted potholders. It is also said that she served as a district midwife for a period of time.

Figure 52
Agnethe and Mathias' House

Agnethe was an active member of the Grua Mission Society and was a driving force behind the construction of Grua Church - a testament to her community spirit, despite not being a formal member of the State Church herself.

Peder Jensen (Peter J. Lier): A Solitary Life in America

Peder Jensen was **born 02 Sep 1857** at Ambseie østre (East Ambseie) in Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway (see Baptism record, Figure 103). Ambseie østre was a small tenant place under the Amb farm complex, part of the dense web of cotter holdings that supplied labor to the larger farms along the east side of Lake Mjøsa. His birth and baptism are recorded in the church books of Ringsaker parish, firmly placing his origins within the Ringsaker community.

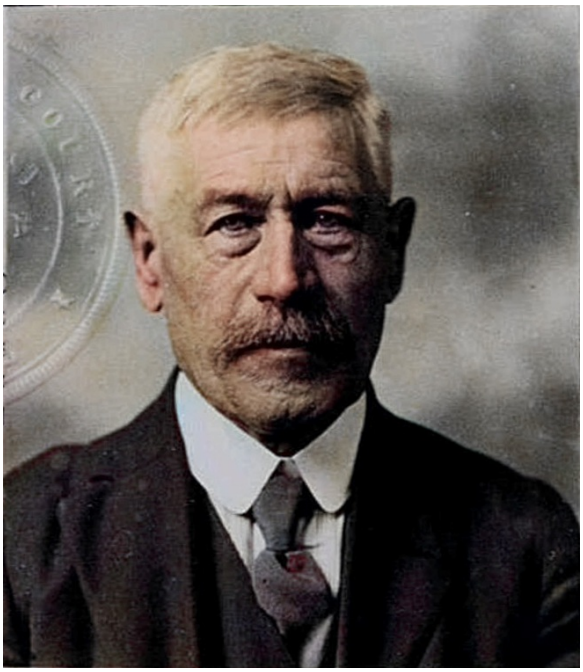


Figure 53
Peder Jensen

Peder grew up within the rural servant and cotter class that formed the base of agricultural life in the district. In the 1865 census, at 8, he was already living away from his parents and working at Vestre (West) Amb, near modern Gaupen, just south of Ringsaker (see 1865 Census, Figure 104). Even at this young age, he was involved in the system of farm service and placement outside the home, indicating early movement within the Amb farm network and an early entry into the labor structure that defined rural childhood.

Birth of the Norwegian Telegraph System

About the time of Peder's birth, in the early winter of 1855, Norway took another bold step into the modern age with the opening of its first electric telegraph line. On 1 January 1855, just a few months after the nation's first railway began carrying passengers and freight, the newly established Norwegian Telegraph Administration activated a line running between Christiania (today's Oslo) and Drammen. This initial stretch of wire, simple by later standards, represented a dramatic leap forward in how information could be shared across distances in a country marked by fjords, forests, and sprawling rural districts.

Figure 54
Norwegian Telegraph Office, 1890s

For centuries, messages had traveled no faster than a person on foot, a horse, or a sailing ship. A note carried

from Ringsaker to Oslo could take nearly a week to arrive, and families like the Jensens often waited days or even weeks for news from distant relatives. With the telegraph, a coded message could travel that same distance in minutes. Word of births, deaths, market prices, and political decisions could now spread almost instantly. For a farmer like Peder Jensen, this new world of communication must have seemed nothing short of astonishing.

Even economically, the new telegraph line altered life in mid-19th century Norway. Farmers, merchants, and landowners could receive price updates from markets in Christiania or abroad, making it easier to decide when to sell grain, timber, or livestock. Telegraph signals sent ahead from stations along Norway's first railways also helped coordinate train schedules, improving safety and the efficiency of transporting goods and passengers. In these ways, the telegraph began to dissolve the old isolation of rural communities.

Peder was confirmed on 6 Oct 1872 in Ringsaker, at the age of 15. In Norway, confirmation was not only a religious rite but a legal necessity (see Confirmation record, Figure 105). Without confirmation, a person could not lawfully enter adult life. It was required to marry, enter military service, act as a godparent, testify in court, and be recognized as an independent worker. Failure to present for confirmation could bring fines, public discipline, or imprisonment. Peder's confirmation formally released him from childhood status and opened the way into adult service.

By the 1875 census, at 19, he was working as a servant at the Børdal farm in the Ringsaker area (see 1875 Census, Figure 106). Like many young men of his class, his life consisted of hired labor, temporary placements, and seasonal movement rather than the formation of a household of his own.

The next record of Peder next appears in Jun 1882, the date of Johan Pedersen's baptism. He is living at Stensengeie, a small cottage under Stenseng farm in Ringsaker. It was here that his life intersected with Marie Kristiansdatter. Their relationship resulted in the birth of Johan Pedersen on 26 Mar 1882. The baptismal record notes that the parents were not married. Johan's arrival placed Peder at a turning point that appears to have been followed almost immediately by departure. Within days of Johan's birth, Peder had left Norway.

Emigration and American records consistently place his departure in March 1882 and his arrival in April (see Emigration records, Figures 107, and 108). Norwegian emigration lists associate him with the *SS Angelo*, which commonly carried emigrants from Norway to England. In later naturalization papers he stated that he traveled on the ship *Pennsylvania*, though no sailing corresponds to that claim. A passenger list exists for the *SS Indiana*, which arrived in Philadelphia on 17 Apr 1882, and this is almost

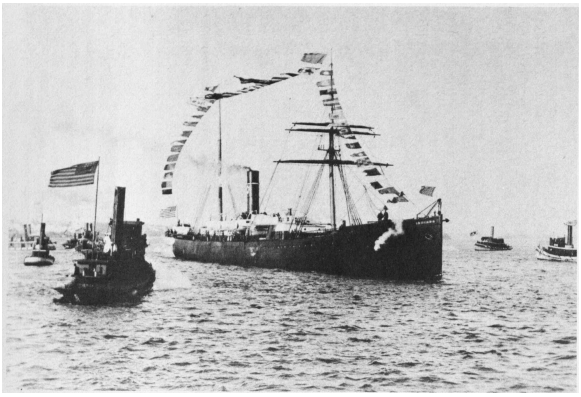


Figure 55
Peder Jensen's Emigration Ship, the SS Indiana

certainly the vessel that brought him to America. All records agree that he entered through Philadelphia and continued on to Dane County, Wisconsin.

Soon after arriving, Peder adopted the surname Lier, appearing in American documents as Peter Lier or Peter J. Lier. The name was likely taken from a Norwegian farm, following the same pattern seen in Fremstad and Togstad. A Lier farm existed east of Ringsaker, suggesting the geographic and cultural origin of the name he chose.

On 17 Oct 1884, Peder filed a petition for naturalization, stating that he was living in Cambridge, Dane County, Wisconsin (see Naturalization records, Figures 109, 110, 111, and 112). That town and its surrounding farms remained the center of his life for more than 60 years.

The American censuses trace a life defined by labor and solitude. In 1900, he was living in Cambridge, single, and working as a farmer. In 1910, he was still single and recorded as a laborer, apparently working for the household with whom he boarded. In 1920, he again appears living alone and farming.

On 24 Feb 1921, Peder applied for a United States passport, stating that he wished to return to Norway to visit relatives (see Passport application, Figure 113). By that time he had been in America nearly 39 years, had never married, and had spent most of his adult life working and boarding in Wisconsin.

His request suggests that, despite the long separation, ties to Norway and to whatever family remained there had not been extinguished. Whether the journey was ever made is not known, but the application itself reveals a lingering sense of connection to the place and people he left behind. For many long-term immigrants, especially those who had not formed new households, the idea of return often resurfaced later in life, when working years were ending and the pull of origins grew stronger. In Peder's case, the passport application stands as the only recorded moment when he looked back across the Atlantic, not as a migrant seeking a future, but as an aging man contemplating a visit to the past.

By 1930, at 73, Peder was living as a boarder in another family's home (see 1930 Census, Figure 114). Per the 1940 census, Peder was living in an *Old People's Home* in Dane County, Wisconsin. This was Skaalen Home for the Aged in Stoughton, Wisconsin, an institution founded by Norwegian Lutherans to care for elderly people of Scandinavian background.

While Peder was living at Skaalen Home, it was destroyed by fire, an event widely reported in the local press. The blaze reduced the 46-year-old structure to a smoke-blackened shell, forcing the evacuation of dozens of elderly residents. All occupants were saved, some walking out on their own and others carried to safety. For Peder, already in advanced age, the destruction of the Skaalen Home meant another dislocation at the very end of life, a final upheaval after decades marked by movement, boarding, and institutional living.

Skaalen Home Is Destroyed By Fire

All Occupants Are Saved As Flames Burn 46 Year Old Structure to Ground

A smoke-blackened shell is all that remains today of the Skaalen Home for the Aged, which Sunday morning was gutted by a fire which drove its 40 elderly occupants out into a chilly spring breeze. No one was injured in the fire, and all the old people either walked or were carried to safety by spectators or member of the Stoughton fire department. Several hundred people watched the spectacular fire.

The fire, which, according to J. Donald Larson, superintendent of the Skaalen Home and the Martin Luther Children's Home, was started by sparks from the chimney, began on the roof, and, fanned by a sharp wind from the southeast, soon enveloped the whole roof, and within two hours had destroyed the entire building.

$50,000 Loss

Mr. Larson estimated the loss at between $40,000 and $50,000, all of which is covered by insurance. He also estimated that about 50 per cent of the furnishings, equipment and personal belongings of the occupants was saved.

(Continued on last page)

Above is the picture of burned out shell of the Skaalen Home as it appeared after the fire Sunday. The 40 elderly occupants walked or were carried to safety while the fire was raging on the roof and in the upper story. This picture was taken by Walter C. Harrison, Madison, son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Homme.

Shown above is the Skaalen Sunset Home as it appeared before the fire Sunday morning. Built in 1899 and first occupied in 1900 the Home has been a part of the Stoughton community for 46 years.

The board of directors of the Skaalen Home and J. Donald Larson, superintendent of the Home, asked that the following note of appreciation be made to those who helped at the fire yesterday:

"We wish to extend our deepest appreciation to all those who assisted us in so many ways during the Skaalen Home fire and the difficult hours following. It is impossible to enumerate the various acts of kindness and cooperation shown at this time."

Suffers Fractured Jaw When Struck by Falling Brick

Robert Sawyer, a member of the Stoughton fire department, suffered a fractured jaw just be-

SEE POSSIBILITY OF WRITE-IN CAMPAIGN TUESDAY

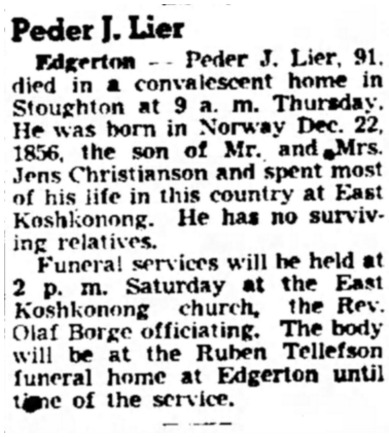
Figure 56

The Skaalen Home was a Norwegian-American institution, rooted in Lutheran charitable tradition, meant to provide cultural familiarity, language comfort, and community for aging immigrants. That Peder lived there suggests that even after nearly 60 years in America, his final refuge was within a Scandinavian environment. The fire therefore carries more than physical meaning: it symbolized the loss of a place specifically designed to shelter people like him, elderly immigrants whose lives had outlasted their households.

Peder Jensen Lier never married. No record has been found of other children. After leaving

Norway, he built a life that was long but quiet, marked by work rather than family formation.

Peder **died on 02 Sep 1948** in Dane County, Wisconsin, on his 91st birthday. No known grave has yet been identified. The absence of a documented burial place often reflects limited family contact, few surviving associates, or burial handled by a county or charitable institution whose records were incomplete or later lost.



Peder J. Lier

Edgerton -- Peder J. Lier, 91, died in a convalescent home in Stoughton at 9 a. m. Thursday. He was born in Norway Dec. 22, 1856, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jens Christianson and spent most of his life in this country at East Koshkonong. He has no surviving relatives.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Saturday at the East Koshkonong church, the Rev. Olaf Borge officiating. The body will be at the Ruben Tellefson funeral home at Edgerton until time of the service.

Figure 57
Peder Jensen Obituary

After his brief but consequential connection with Marie, Peder's path led away from family life and toward a solitary existence. He crossed an ocean, adopted a new surname, and spent more than six decades in one Wisconsin county, working, boarding, aging, and finally entering institutional care.

His story stands beside that of Mathias Andersen as a study in contrast. Mathias remained rooted on a single Norwegian farm, surrounded by wife and children. Peder severed himself from Norway entirely, lived alone, and left no household behind. Together they show the divergent courses that could follow the same rural beginnings and the same brief crossing of one woman's life.

Epilogue: From Fjord to Prairie

The story traced in these pages began not with departure, but with rootedness. Marie Kristiansdatter's early life unfolded among the farms and cotter places of Ringsaker, Nes, and Stange, within a society ordered by parish, labor, and land. Her youth, her work, her early relationships, and the births of her first children were shaped by the rhythms and constraints of rural Norway. From that soil emerged a family whose later history would stretch far beyond the limits of the Mjøsa districts.

Emigration transformed everything. The Atlantic crossing did not produce a single, unified outcome, but a scattering of lives. Some children formed stable households, married, and raised families. Others moved restlessly in search of work. Some were drawn into the growing systems of railroads and prairie farming. Others were overtaken by illness, poverty, or institutional confinement. Their stories reveal that immigration was not one event, but a long process whose effects echoed across decades and generations.

Marie's life stands at the center of that transformation. She raised children in two countries, endured repeated separations, buried one child, and watched her family disperse across states and circumstances she could never have imagined in her youth. When she died in Brookings in 1930 and was laid in an unmarked grave, she left behind no monument. What remains instead is a web of lives, records, memories, and consequences.

The Togstad, Fremstad, Andersen, and Lier lines reflect the full human range of the immigrant experience: continuity and fracture, endurance and vulnerability, rootedness and loss. Some branches stayed on Norwegian soil, adapting slowly to a changing rural world. Others crossed oceans and rebuilt themselves on the plains. Together they show that family history is not a single story but a convergence of many, shaped as much by circumstance as by intention.

This book has followed names through parish books, censuses, passenger lists, farm records, institutions, and recollections. What emerges is more than documentation. It is the story of ordinary people whose lives were consequential not because they were famous, but because they were lived. Their labor sustained households. Their movements reshaped kinship. Their struggles and successes were carried forward in the generations that followed.

In that sense, this work does not conclude a story so much as return it to where it belongs: within the ongoing lives of those who came after them.

Historical Records

This section contains historical records, such as church and census records, for those researched in this book.

Marie Kristiansdatter

Marie Kristiansdatter's Baptism Record

Born 3 Oct 1872. Baptized 31 Oct 1852 in Gjølstadeie, Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway. Parents Christian Larsen and Eli Eriksdatter. Comments: This was the man's first illegitimate child and the woman's second. Reported by the woman.

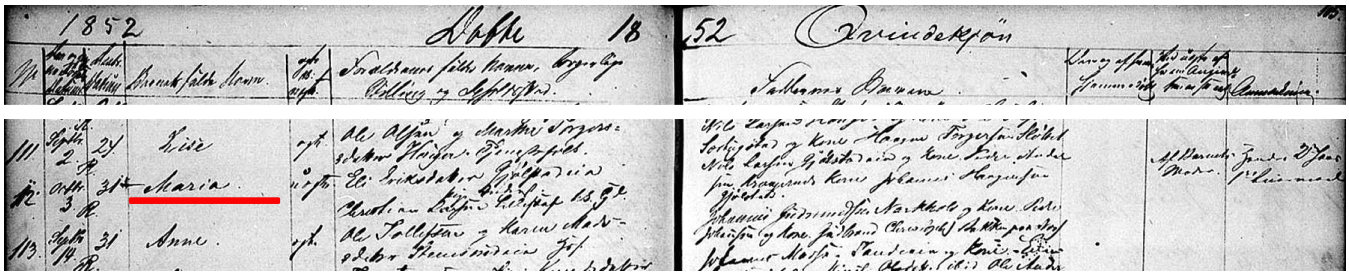


Figure 58

Marie Kristiansdatter's Confirmation Record

Born 3 Oct 1852 at Jølstadeie. Confirmed as Marie Tørrud (probably current farm name) 18 Oct 1868 in Veldre Parish, Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway. Her grade was "Good".

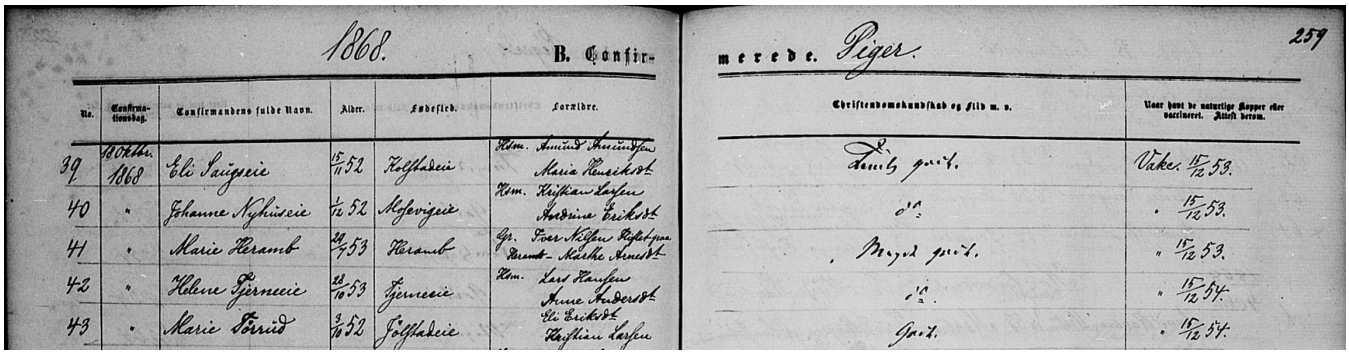
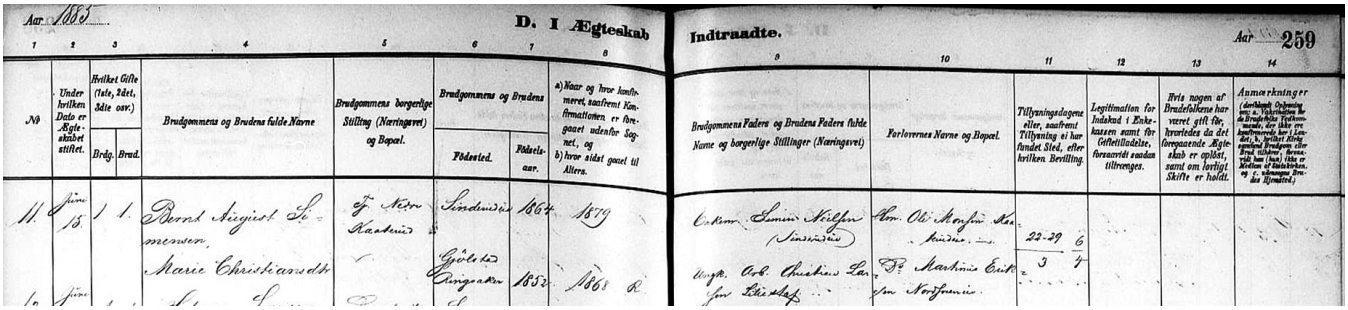


Figure 59

Marie Kristiansdatter and Bernt Simensen Marriage Record

Married 15 June 1885 in Ottestad Annex, Stange, Hedmark, Norway.
Bernt born 1864 in Sinderudeie and resides in Lower Kaaterud. Works as a farm servant.
Marie Kristiansdatter born 1852 in Gjølstadeie and resides in Kjonerud.



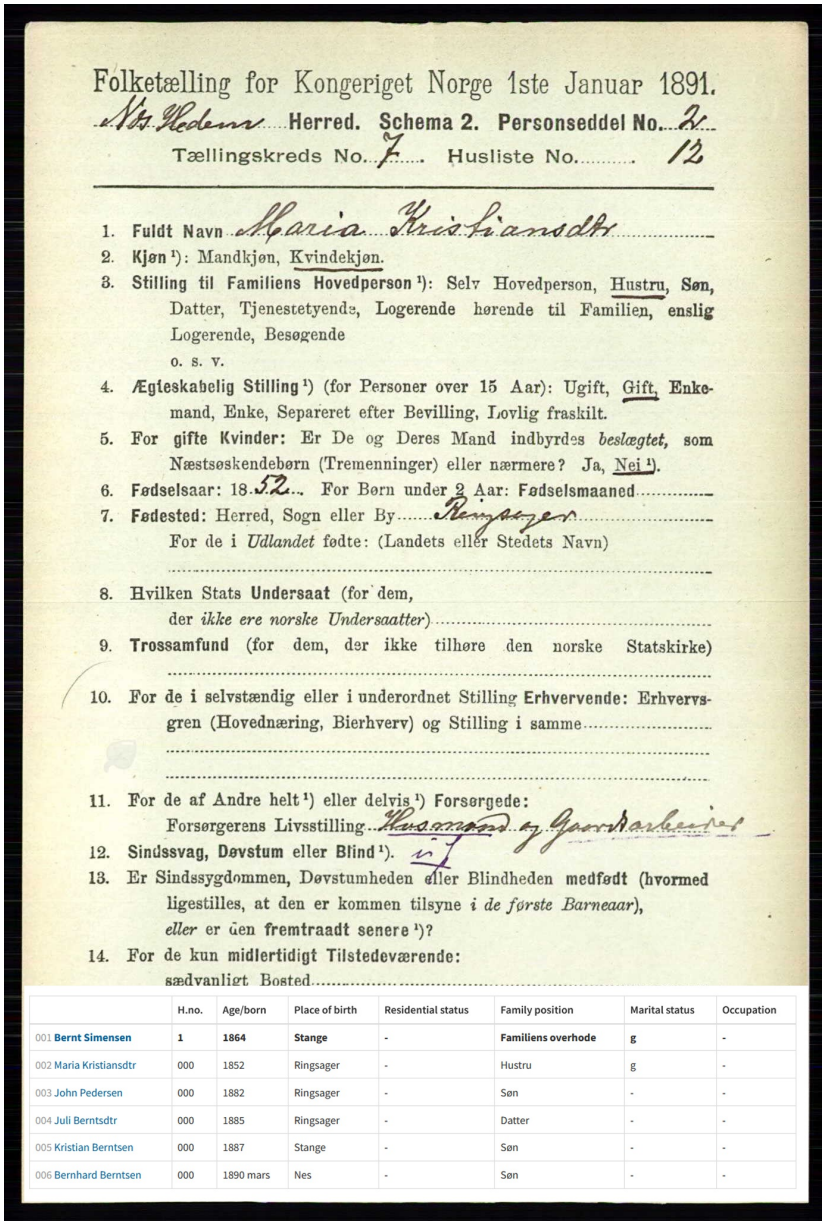
Aar 1885 D. I Ægteskab Indtraadte. Aar 259

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Nº	Under hvilken Dato er Ægteskabet stiftet.	Hvilket Gifte (1ste, 2det, 3die osv.) Brdg.	Brud.	Brudgommens og Brudens fulde Navne	Brudgommens borgerlige Stilling (Næringsvei) og Bopæl.	Brudgommens og Brudens Fødested.	Fødsels-aar.	a) Naar og hvor konfirmeret, saafremt Konfirmationen er foregaaet udenfor Sognet, og b) hvor sidst gaaet til Alters.	Brudgommens Fadere og Brudens Fæders fulde Navne og borgerlige Stillinger (Næringsvei)	Forlovernes Navne og Bopæl.	Tilsvarsdagene eller, saafremt Tilsvarsting vi har fundet Sted, efter hvilken Bevilling.	Legitimation for Indskud i Enkekassen samt for Gifteattestelse, forsaavidt saadan tilstrenges.	Hvis nogen af Brudefolkene har været gift før, hvorledes da det foregaaende Ægteskab er opløst, samt om lovligt Skifte er holdt.	Anmærkninger (derunder Oplysning om a. Vaccination for de Brudefødte Fyrbarnsmænd, der ikke er konfirmerede, hvor i Landet, b. hvilket Kirkesogn Brudgom eller Brud tilhører; hvorvidt han (hun) ikke er Medlem af Statskirken, og c. tilkommende Børns Hjemstavn.)
11.	Juni 15.	1	1.	Bernt Asgjerd Simensen.	Gr. Nedre Kaaterud	Sinderudeie	1864	1879	Ekstrm. Simen Nilsen (Sinderudeie)	Kom. Ole Knutsen Kaaterud	22-29 6 / 3 4			
				Marie Christiansdtr		Gjølstadeie	1852	1868	Ungk. Ord. Christian Lars. Gr. Lillestad	Gr. Marthinus Eriksen Nordsmoen				

Figure 60

1891 Census - Marie Kristiansdatter

The family is living in Sveen, Nes, Hedmark Norway. Listed are Bernt, Marie, John, Juli, Kristian, and Bernhard. All were born in Ringsaker except Bernt (Stange) and Bernhard (Nes). Bernt was a Cotter and farm laborer.



Folketælling for Kongeriget Norge 1ste Januar 1891.

Nes Hedem Herred. Schema 2. Personseddel No. 2.

Tællingskreds No. 7. Husliste No. 12

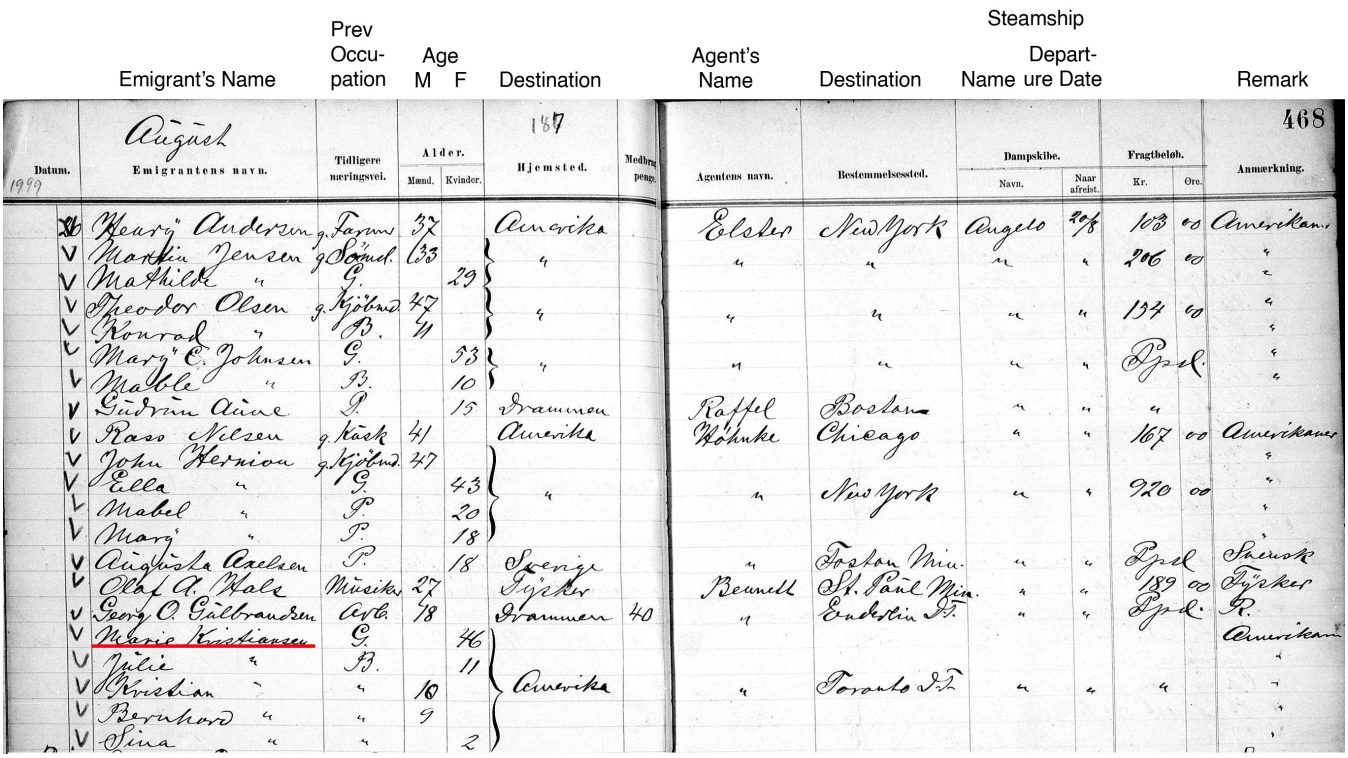
1. Fuldt Navn Maria Kristiansdtr
2. Kjøn [1]): Mandkjøn, Kvindekjøn.
3. Stilling til Familiens Hovedperson [1]): Selv Hovedperson, Hustru, Søn, Datter, Tjenestetyende, Logerende hørende til Familien, enslig Logerende, Besøgende o. s. v.
4. Ægteskabelig Stilling [1]) (for Personer over 15 Aar): Ugift, Gift, Enkemand, Enke, Separeret efter Bevilling, Lovlig fraskilt.
5. For gifte Kvinder: Er De og Deres Mand indbyrdes *beslægtet*, som Næstsøskendebørn (Tremenninger) eller nærmere? Ja, Nei [1]).
6. Fødselsaar: 18 52 For Børn under 2 Aar: Fødselsmaaned
7. Fødested: Herred, Sogn eller By Ringsager
   For de i *Udlandet* fødte: (Landets eller Stedets Navn)
8. Hvilken Stats Undersaat (for dem, der *ikke ere norske Undersaatter*)
9. Trossamfund (for dem, der ikke tilhøre den norske Statskirke)
10. For de i selvstændig eller i underordnet Stilling Erhvervende: Erhvervsgren (Hovednæring, Bierhverv) og Stilling i samme
11. For de af Andre helt [1]) eller delvis [1]) Forsørgede: Forsørgerens Livsstilling Husmand og Gaardbruger
12. Sindssvag, Døvstum eller Blind [1]). nei
13. Er Sindssygdommen, Døvstumheden eller Blindheden medfødt (hvormed ligestilles, at den er kommen tilsyne *i de første Barneaar*), *eller* er den fremtraadt senere [1])?
14. For de kun midlertidigt Tilstedeværende: sædvanligt Bosted

	H.no.	Age/born	Place of birth	Residential status	Family position	Marital status	Occupation
001 **Bernt Simensen**	**1**	**1864**	**Stange**	-	**Familiens overhode**	g	-
002 Maria Kristiansdtr	000	1852	Ringsager	-	Hustru	g	-
003 John Pedersen	000	1882	Ringsager	-	Søn	-	-
004 Juli Berntsdtr	000	1885	Ringsager	-	Datter	-	-
005 Kristian Berntsen	000	1887	Stange	-	Søn	-	-
006 Bernhard Berntsen	000	1890 mars	Nes	-	Søn	-	-

Figure 61

Emigration Document for Marie Kristiansdatter & Children

Emigrated 20 Aug 1897, Oslo, Norway, age 46. Destination Toronto, South Dakota. Departing on the ship *SS Angelo*. With her were Julia (11), Christian (10), Bernhard (9), and Sina (2).

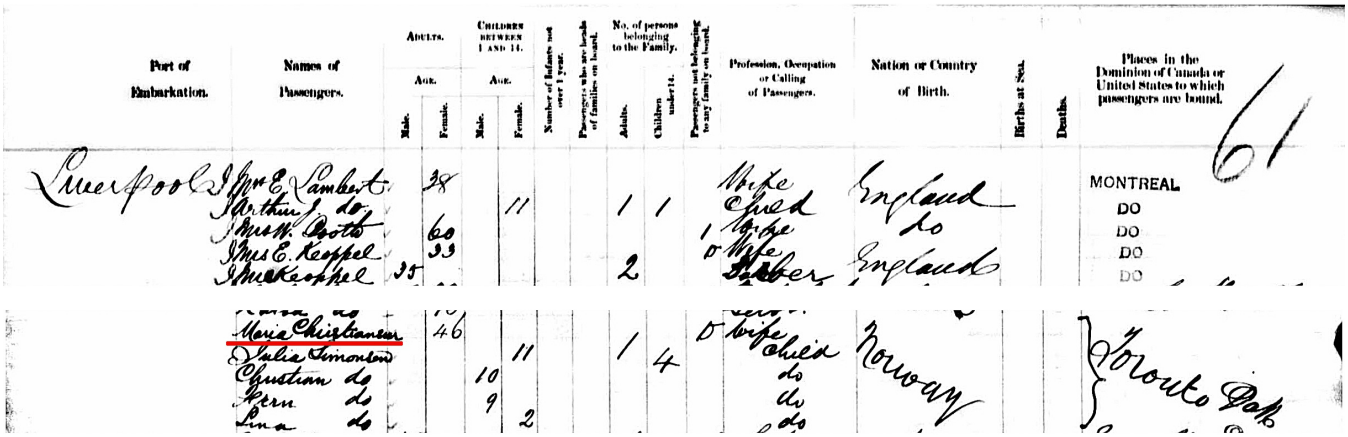


Datum.	Emigrantens navn.	Tidligere næringsvei.	Alder. Mænd.	Alder. Kvinder.	Hjemsted.	Medbr. penge.	Agentens navn.	Bestemmelsessted.	Dampskibe. Navn.	Dampskibe. Naar afreist.	Fragtbeløb. Kr.	Fragtbeløb. Øre.	Anmærkning.
1897	August				187								468
20	Georg Andersen g.	Tømm	37		Amerika		Elsker	New York	Angelo	20/8	103	00	Amerikaner
V	Martin Jensen g.	Sömd.	33		"		"	"	"	"	206	00	"
V	Mathilde "	G.		29									"
V	Theodor Olsen g.	Kjöbmd.	47		"		"	"	"	"	134	60	"
V	Konrad "	B.	11										"
V	Marg. C. Johnsen	C.		53	"		"	"	"	"	Fjæl.		"
V	Mable "	B.		10									"
V	Gudrun Anne	D.		15	Drammen		Raffel	Boston	"	"	"		
V	Rasmus Nilsen g.	Kask	41		Amerika		Wohnke	Chicago	"	"	167	00	Amerikaner
V	John Hermion g.	Kjöbmd.	47										"
V	Ella "	G.		43	"		"	New York	"	"	920	00	"
V	Mabel "	D.		20									"
V	Marg. "	D.		18									"
V	Anghiska Carlsen	P.		18	Sverige		"	Boston Mass.	"	"	Fjæl		Svensk
V	Olaf A. Wale	Musiker	27		Fjæker		Bennett	St. Paul Minn.	"	"	189	00	Fjæker
V	Georg O. Galbrandsen	Arb.	18		Drammen	40	"	Enderlin N.D.	"	"	Fjæl.		R.
V	Marie Kristiansen	G.		46									Amerikaner
V	Julie "	D.		11									"
V	Kristian "	"	10		Amerika		"	Toronto S.D.	"	"	"		"
V	Bernhard "	"	9										"
V	Sina "	"		2									"

Figure 62

SS State of California Passenger List for Marie Kristiansdatter & Children

Arrived in Montreal, Quebec, Canada 6 Sep 1897. Final destination Toronto, Dakota. Note that "do" means "same as above".

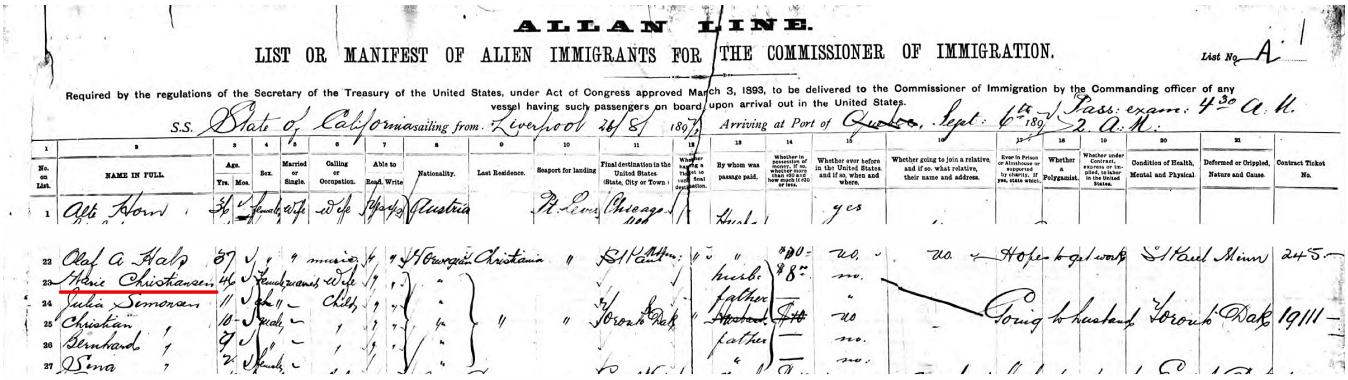


Port of Embarkation	Names of Passengers	Adults. Age. Male.	Adults. Age. Female.	Children between 1 and 14. Age. Male.	Children between 1 and 14. Age. Female.	Number of Infants not over 1 year.	Passengers who are heads of families on board.	No. of persons belonging to the Family. Adults.	No. of persons belonging to the Family. Children under 14.	Passengers not belonging to any family on board.	Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passengers.	Nation or Country of Birth.	Births at Sea.	Deaths.	Places in the Dominion of Canada or United States to which passengers are bound.
Liverpool	Jno E. Lambert		38								Wife	England			MONTREAL
	Arthur J. do				11			1	1		Child	do			DO
	Mrs W. Potts		60							1	Wife				DO
	Mrs E. Keppel		33												DO
	Miss E. Keppel	35						2			Teacher	England			DO
	Marie Christiansen		46												
	Julia Simonsen				11			1	4	0	wife	Norway			Toronto Dak
	Christian do			10							child				
	Bern do			9							do				
	Lina do				2						do				

Figure 63

Marie Kristiansdatter & Children Border Crossing

The record shows the ship's manifest which was delivered to immigration at St. Albans.



ALLAN LINE.

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN IMMIGRANTS FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION.

List No. A 1

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, under Act of Congress approved March 3, 1893, to be delivered to the Commissioner of Immigration by the Commanding officer of any vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival out in the United States.

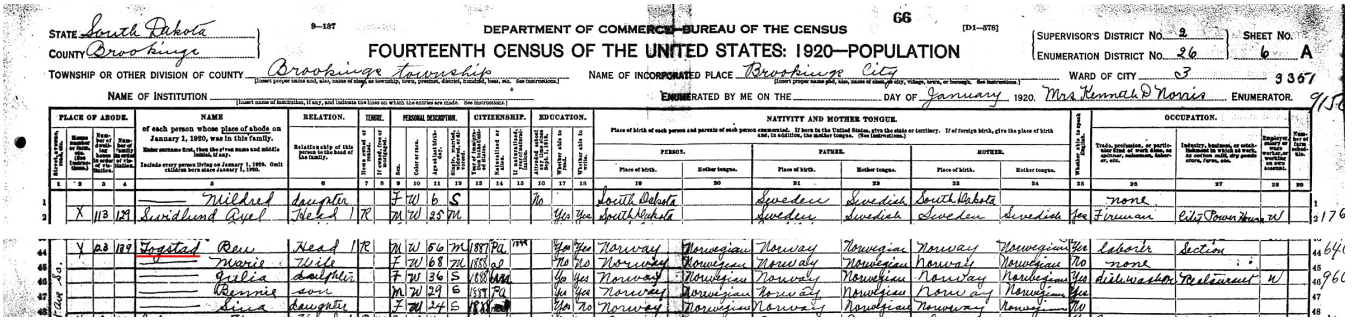
S.S. State of California sailing from Liverpool 26/8 1897 Arriving at Port of Quebec Sept 6th 1897 Pass. exam. 4.30 A.M.

No. on List	NAME IN FULL	Age Yrs.	Age Mos.	Sex	Married or Single	Calling or Occupation	Able to Read.	Able to Write.	Nationality.	Last Residence.	Passport for landing	Final destination in the United States (State, City or Town.)	Whether in possession of $50 and if less than $50 how much? if no amount of less	By whom was passage paid.	Whether passenger is in possession of a ticket through to final destination.	Whether over before in the United States. and if so, when and where.	Whether going to join a relative, and if so, what relative, their name and address.	Ever in Prison or Almshouse or supported by charity. If yes, state which.	Whether a Polygamist.	Whether under Contract, express or implied, to labor in the United States.	Condition of Health, Mental and Physical	Deformed or Crippled, Nature and Cause.	Contract Ticket No.
1	Alb Hovd	36		M	M	wife	Yes	Yes	Austria			Chicago		Husb		yes							
22	Olaf A Halp	27		M	S		Yes	Yes	Norway	Christiania		Toronto Dak		husb		no		no			Hotel keeper	Dak Rural Mount	2455
23	Marie Christiansen	46		F	M		Yes	Yes						husband		no		no					
24	Julia Simonsen	11		F	S	child	Yes	Yes						father		no							
25	Christian	10		M	S		Yes	Yes								no							
26	Bernhard	9		M	S		Yes	Yes								no							
27	Lena	2		F	S		Yes	Yes								no							

Figure 64

1920 Census Togstad Family

Bernt, Marie, Julia, Bennie, and Sina were living on 1st Ave South in Brookings, South Dakota. Bernt was a laborer and rented. Stated industry was "section" which quite possibly meant he was working on the railroad as his son was that same year.



STATE South Dakota COUNTY Brookings TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY Brookings Township NAME OF INSTITUTION

9–127 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS 66 [D1—578]

FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920—POPULATION

SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. 2 ENUMERATION DISTRICT NO. 26 SHEET NO. 6 A

NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE Brookings City WARD OF CITY 3 3367

ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE DAY OF January 1920. Mrs Hannah D Norris ENUMERATOR. 9/50

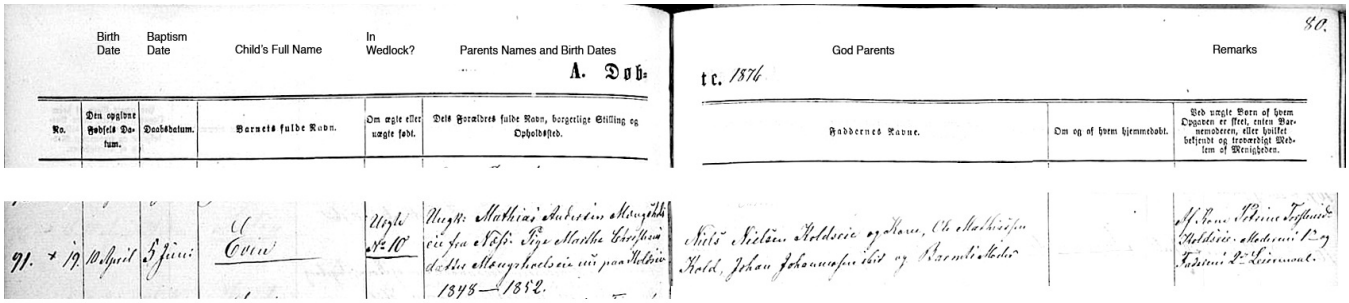
PLACE OF ABODE.			NAME of each person whose place of abode on January 1, 1920, was in this family.	RELATION.	TENURE.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.			CITIZENSHIP.			EDUCATION.		NATIVITY AND MOTHER TONGUE. Place of birth of each person and parents of each person enumerated.							OCCUPATION.				
														PERSON.		FATHER.		MOTHER.							
														Place of birth.	Mother tongue.	Place of birth.	Mother tongue.	Place of birth.	Mother tongue.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1				Mildred	daughter		F	W	6	S					No			South Dakota		Sweden	Swedish	South Dakota			none				1
2	X	113	129	Swidlund Axel	Head	R	M	W	28	M					Yes	Yes		South Dakota		Sweden	Swedish	Sweden	Swedish	Yes	Fireman	City Town Work	W		2 176
44	X	23	189	Togstad Bernt	Head	R	M	W	50	M	1887	Pa	1899		Yes	Yes	Norway	Norwegian	Norway	Norwegian	Norway	Norwegian	Yes	Laborer	Section			44 64
45				Marie	Wife		F	W	68	M	1888	Ab			No	No	Norway	Norwegian	Norway	Norwegian	Norway	Norwegian	No	none				45
46				Julia	daughter		F	W	26	S	1893	[illegible]			Yes	Yes	Norway	Norwegian	Norway	Norwegian	Norway	Norwegian	Yes	Dish Washer	Restaurant	W		46 96
47				Bennie	son		M	W	24	S	1895	Pa			Yes	Yes	Norway	Norwegian	Norway	Norwegian	Norway	Norwegian	Yes					47
48				Sina	daughter		F	W	24	S	1896	[illegible]			Yes	No	Norway	Norwegian	Norway	Norwegian	Norway	Norwegian	No					48

Year Sh.

Figure 65

Even Mathiassen Birth/Baptism Record

Born 20 Apr 1876. Baptized 5 Jun 1876 at Vardal, Hunn Parish. Residence is "Mengshoel-eie from Nes, presently at Koldseie". Parents are Matthias Andersen Mængshoelseie and Marie Christiansdr. Remark states "The birth was reported by Petrine Thorstensdatter of Koldseie. The child represented the father's second illegitimate child and the mother's first ".

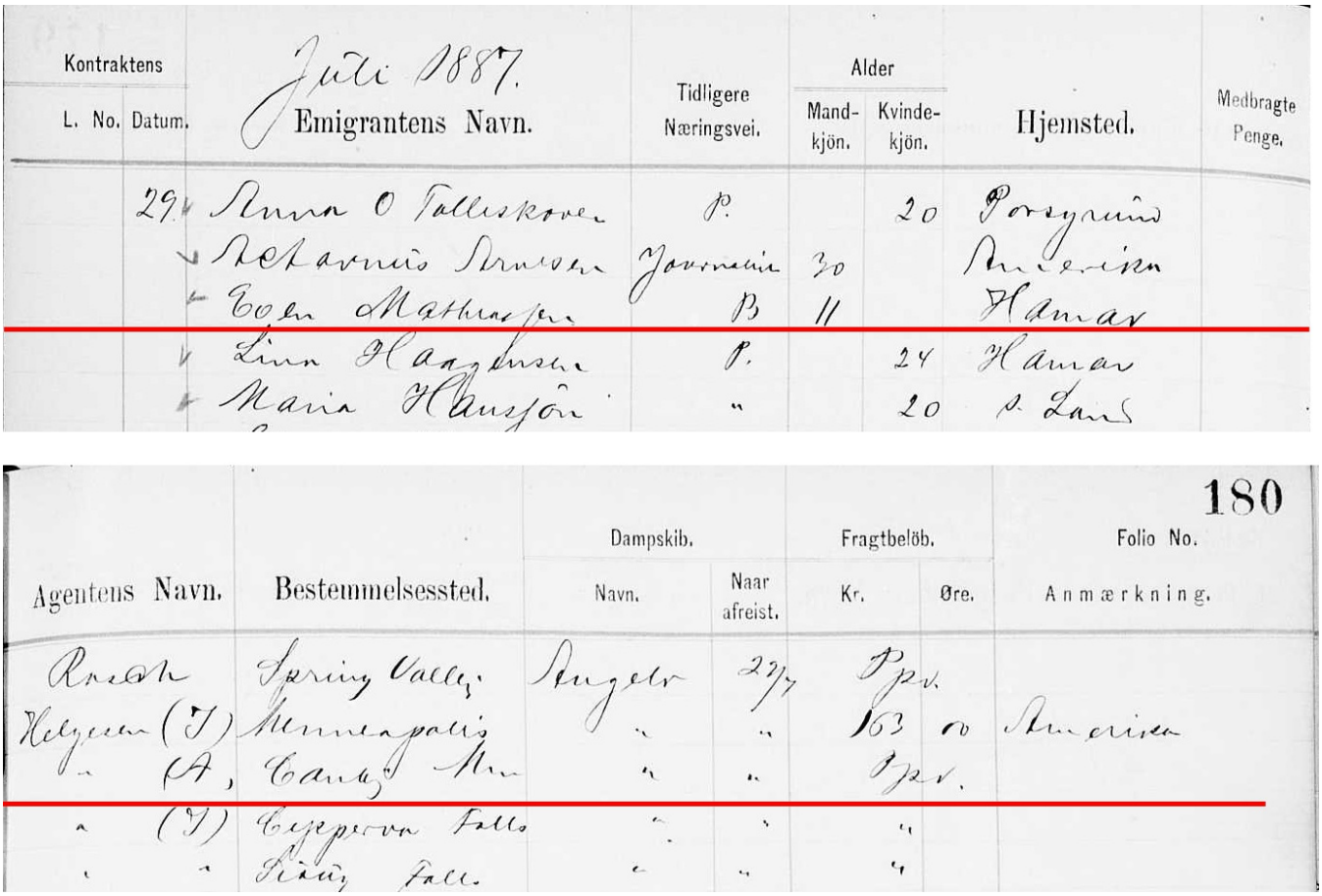


No.	Birth Date	Baptism Date	Child's Full Name	In Wedlock?	Parents Names and Birth Dates	God Parents	Remarks
91.	20 April	5 Juni	Even	Uægte No 10	Uægte: Matthias Andersen Mængshoelseie fra Nesse. Pige Marthe Christensdatter fra Mængshoelseie nu paa Koldseie 1848—1882.	Niels Nielsen Koldseie og Hans Ch Mathiassen Husb. Johan Johannessen Ibid og Barnets Moder	Af Sogne Præst Testimonium Koldseie Mademoi P. og Testimonium P. Lorentzen.

Figure 66

Emigration Record - Edward Fremstad

Emigrated 22 Jul 1887 from Oslo Norway, destination Canton Minnesota. Birth date is 1876, age 11 and residence was Hamar, Norway. Departing on the *SS Angelo*.



Kontraktens L. No.	Datum.	Juli 1887. Emigrantens Navn.	Tidligere Næringsvei.	Alder Mand-kjön.	Alder Kvinde-kjön.	Hjemsted.	Medbragte Penge.
29		Anna O Tallaskoven	P.		20	Porsgrund	
		Octavius Strøm	Journalist	30		Arendal	
		Ole Mathiasen	B	11		Hamar	
		Lina Haagensen	P.		24	Hamar	
		Maria Olsen	"		20	Lier	

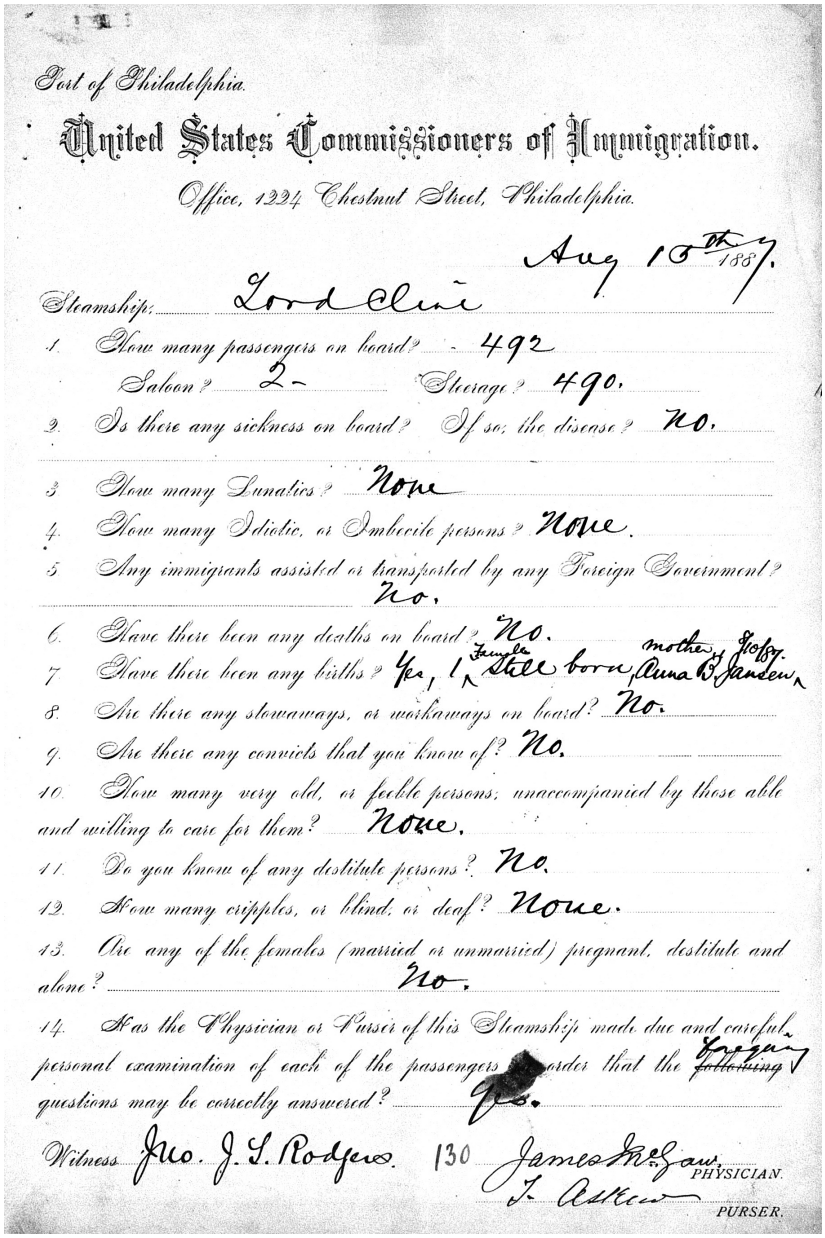
180

Agentens Navn.	Bestemmelsessted.	Dampskib. Navn.	Dampskib. Naar afreist.	Fragtbeløb. Kr.	Fragtbeløb. Øre.	Folio No. Anmærkning.
Rasch	Spring Valley	Angelo	22/7	Fpr.		
Helgesen (J)	Minneapolis	"	"	63	00	Amerika
" (A,	Canby Minn	"	"	Fpr.		
" (J)	Cyprian Falls	"	"	"		
" "	Pine Falls	"	"	"		

Figure 67

Port of Philadelphia's Immigration Report for Lord Clive, Arrived 15 Aug 1887

Passengers On Board: 492
Passengers in Steerage: 490
Deaths: 0
Births: 1 still born



Port of Philadelphia.

United States Commissioners of Immigration.

Office, 1224 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

Aug 10th 1887.

Steamship: Lord Clive

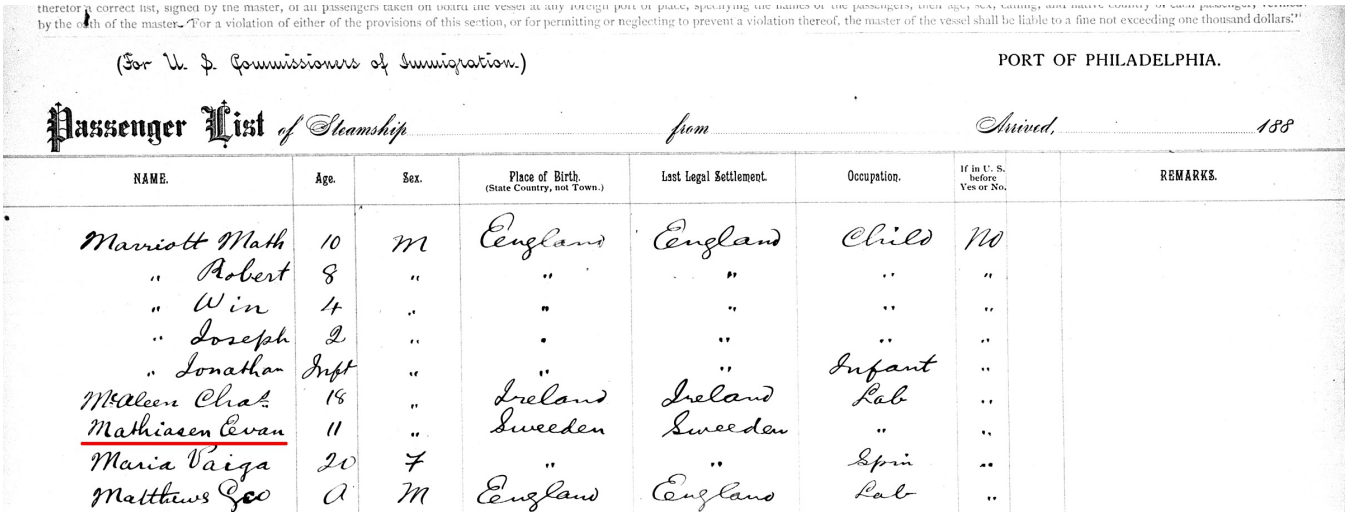
1. How many passengers on board? 492
   Saloon? 2 Steerage? 490.
2. Is there any sickness on board? If so, the disease? No.
3. How many Lunatics? None
4. How many Idiotic, or Imbecile persons? None.
5. Any immigrants assisted or transported by any Foreign Government? No.
6. Have there been any deaths on board? No.
7. Have there been any births? Yes, 1 Female Still born, mother of Ida B. Sanders, 8/10/87.
8. Are there any stowaways, or workaways on board? No.
9. Are there any convicts that you know of? No.
10. How many very old, or feeble persons, unaccompanied by those able and willing to care for them? None.
11. Do you know of any destitute persons? No.
12. How many cripples, or blind, or deaf? None.
13. Are any of the females (married or unmarried) pregnant, destitute and alone? No.
14. Has the Physician or Purser of this Steamship made due and careful personal examination of each of the passengers in order that the ~~following~~ foregoing questions may be correctly answered? Yes.

Witness Jno. J. S. Rodgers. 130 James McShaw, PHYSICIAN.
J. Askew PURSER.

Figure 68

SS Lord Clive Passenger List for 15 Aug 1887 Arrival at Philadelphia

Even Mathiassen, born 1876, age 11. Born in Sweden (incorrect). Arrived 15 Aug 1887 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on the *SS Lord Clive*.



thereof a correct list, signed by the master, of all passengers taken on board the vessel at any foreign port or place, specifying the names of the passengers, their age, sex, calling, and native country of each passenger, verified by the oath of the master. For a violation of either of the provisions of this section, or for permitting or neglecting to prevent a violation thereof, the master of the vessel shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars."

(For U. S. Commissioners of Immigration.) PORT OF PHILADELPHIA.

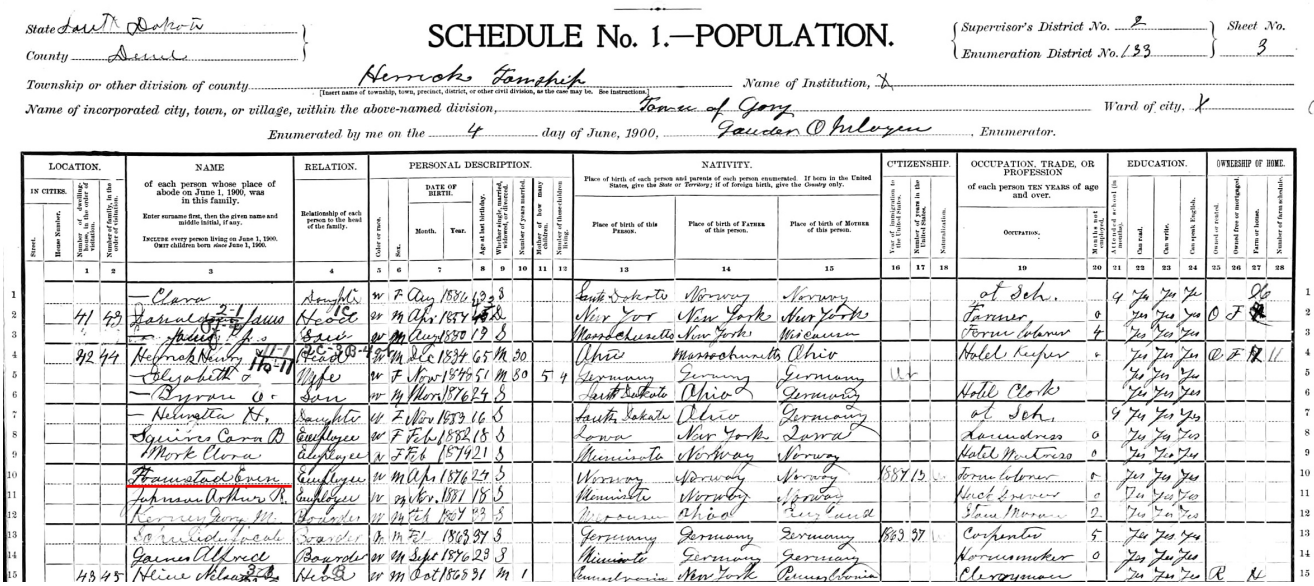
Passenger List of Steamship ..... from ..... Arrived, ... 188

NAME.	Age.	Sex.	Place of Birth. (State Country, not Town.)	Last Legal Settlement.	Occupation.	If in U. S. before Yes or No.	REMARKS.
Marriott Math	10	M	England	England	Child	No	
" Robert	8	"	"	"	"	"	
" Wm	4	"	"	"	"	"	
" Joseph	2	"	"	"	"	"	
" Jonathan	Inft	"	"	"	Infant	"	
McAleen Chas	18	"	Ireland	Ireland	Lab	"	
Mathiasen Evan	11	"	Sweeden	Sweeden	"	"	
Maria Vaiga	20	F	"	"	Spin	"	
Matthews Geo	21	M	England	England	Lab	"	

Figure 69

1900 Census Edward Fremstad

Living with employer in Herrick Township, Deuel, South Dakota. Employer was Henry Hemak, running a Hotel. Edward was born in 1876, age 24 working for Hemak as a farm laborer. Immigrated in 1887. He had attended school and could read and write. Had started naturalization process.



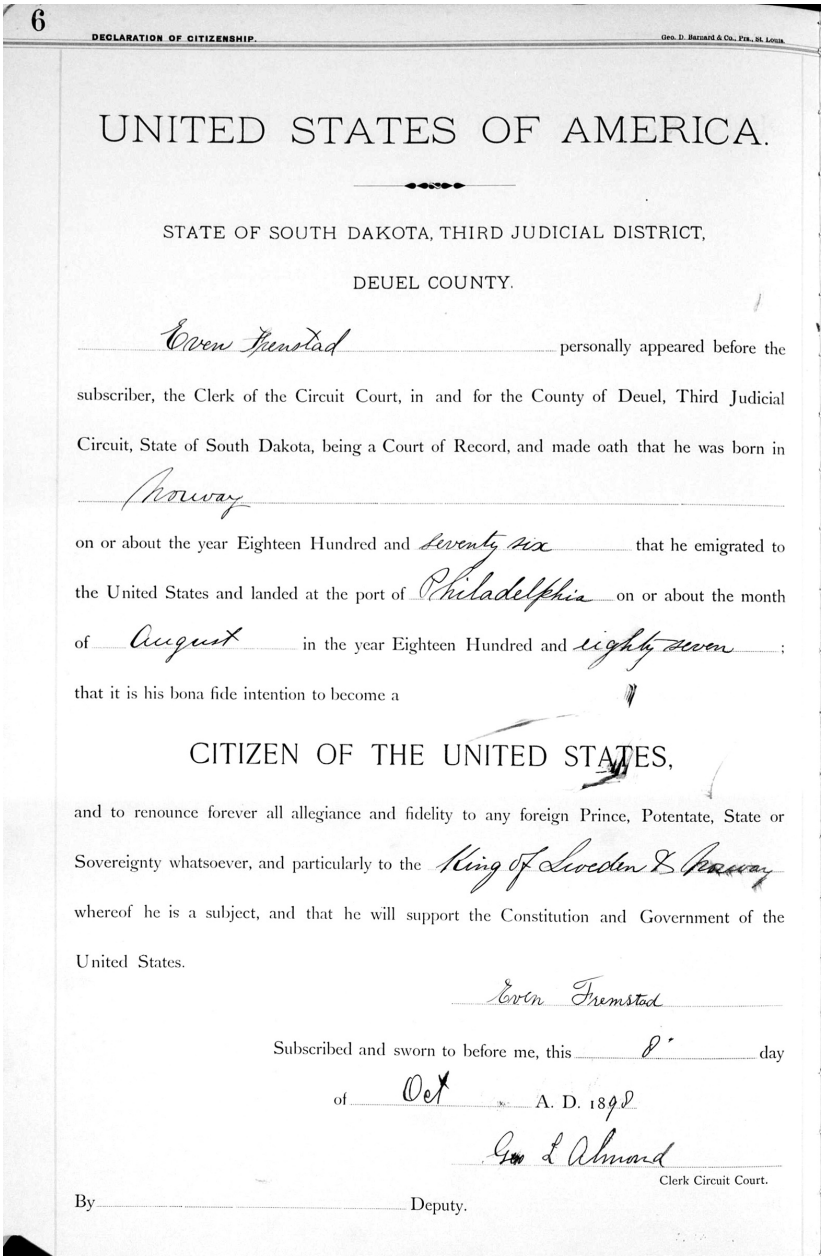
State South Dakota
County Deuel
SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.
Supervisor's District No. 2
Enumeration District No. 133
Sheet No. 3
Township or other division of county Herrick Township
Name of Institution, X
Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, Town of Gary
Ward of city, X
Enumerated by me on the 4 day of June, 1900, Gaudar O Mulvyen, Enumerator.

	Location: Street	Location: House Number	Location: Number of dwelling house, in the order of visitation	Location: Number of family, in the order of visitation	Name of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on June 1, 1900. Omit children born since June 1, 1900.	Relation: Relationship of each person to the head of the family.	Personal Description: Color or race	Sex	Date of Birth: Month	Date of Birth: Year	Age at last birthday	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced	Number of years married	Mother of how many children	Number of these children living	Nativity: Place of birth of this Person	Nativity: Place of birth of Father of this person	Nativity: Place of birth of Mother of this person	Citizenship: Year of immigration to the United States	Citizenship: Number of years in the United States	Citizenship: Naturalization	Occupation, Trade, or Profession: Occupation	Occupation: Months not employed	Education: Attended school (in months)	Education: Can read	Education: Can write	Education: Can speak English	Ownership of Home: Owned or rented	Ownership of Home: Owned free or mortgaged	Ownership of Home: Farm or home	Ownership of Home: Number of farm schedule
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1					Clara	daughter	w	F	Aug	1886	13	S				South Dakota	Norway	Norway				at Sch.		9	Yes	Yes	Yes				
2			41	43	Hemak Jens	Head	w	M	Apr	1854	46	S				New York	New York	New York				Farmer	0		Yes	Yes	Yes	O	F	R	
3					Jacob A.	Son	w	M	Aug	1880	19	S				Massachusetts	New York	Wisconsin				Farm Laborer	4		Yes	Yes	Yes				
4			42	44	Hofnah Henry	Head	w	M	Dec	1834	65	M	30			Ohio	Massachusetts	Ohio				Hotel Keeper	6		Yes	Yes	Yes	O	F	R	H
5					Elizabeth	Wife	w	F	Nov	1846	51	M	30	5	4	Germany	Germany	Germany							Yes	Yes	Yes				
6					Byron O.	Son	w	M	Mar	1876	24	S				South Dakota	Ohio	Germany				Hotel Clerk			Yes	Yes	Yes				
7					Nelmetta M.	Daughter	w	F	Nov	1883	16	S				South Dakota	Ohio	Germany				at Sch.		9	Yes	Yes	Yes				
8					Squires Cora D	Employee	w	F	Feb	1882	18	S				Iowa	New York	Iowa				Laundress	0		Yes	Yes	Yes				
9					Mork Clara	Employee	N	F	Feb	1874	21	S				Minnesota	Norway	Norway				Hotel Waitress	0		Yes	Yes	Yes				
10					Framstad Edwin	Employee	w	M	Apr	1876	24	S				Norway	Norway	Norway	1887	13		Farm Laborer	0		Yes	Yes	Yes				
11					Johnson Arthur R.	Employee	w	M	Nov	1881	18	S				Minnesota	Norway	Norway				Hotel Servant	0		Yes	Yes	Yes				
12					Kenney Geo. W.	Boarder	w	M	Feb	1854	42	S				Wisconsin	Ohio	New York				Stock Dealer	2		Yes	Yes	Yes				
13					Schneidewind	Boarder	w	M	Feb	1863	37	S				Germany	Germany	Germany	1883	17		Carpenter	5		Yes	Yes	Yes				
14					Gaines Albert	Boarder	w	M	Sept	1876	23	S				Minnesota	Germany	Germany				Homemaker	0		Yes	Yes	Yes				
15			43	45	Hine Nelson	Head	w	M	Oct	1868	31	M	1			Pennsylvania	New York	Pennsylvania				Electrician			Yes	Yes	Yes	R		N	

Figure 70

Declaration of Intention - Edward Fremstad

Declared intent 8 Oct 1898. Born 1876, emigrated Aug 1887 landing at the port in Philadelphia.



6

DECLARATION OF CITIZENSHIP. Geo. D. Barnard & Co., Pts., St. Louis.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT,

DEUEL COUNTY.

Even Fremstad personally appeared before the subscriber, the Clerk of the Circuit Court, in and for the County of Deuel, Third Judicial Circuit, State of South Dakota, being a Court of Record, and made oath that he was born in Norway on or about the year Eighteen Hundred and Seventy six that he emigrated to the United States and landed at the port of Philadelphia on or about the month of August in the year Eighteen Hundred and eighty seven; that it is his bona fide intention to become a

CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES,

and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to the King of Sweden & Norway whereof he is a subject, and that he will support the Constitution and Government of the United States.

Even Fremstad

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 8 day of Oct A. D. 1898

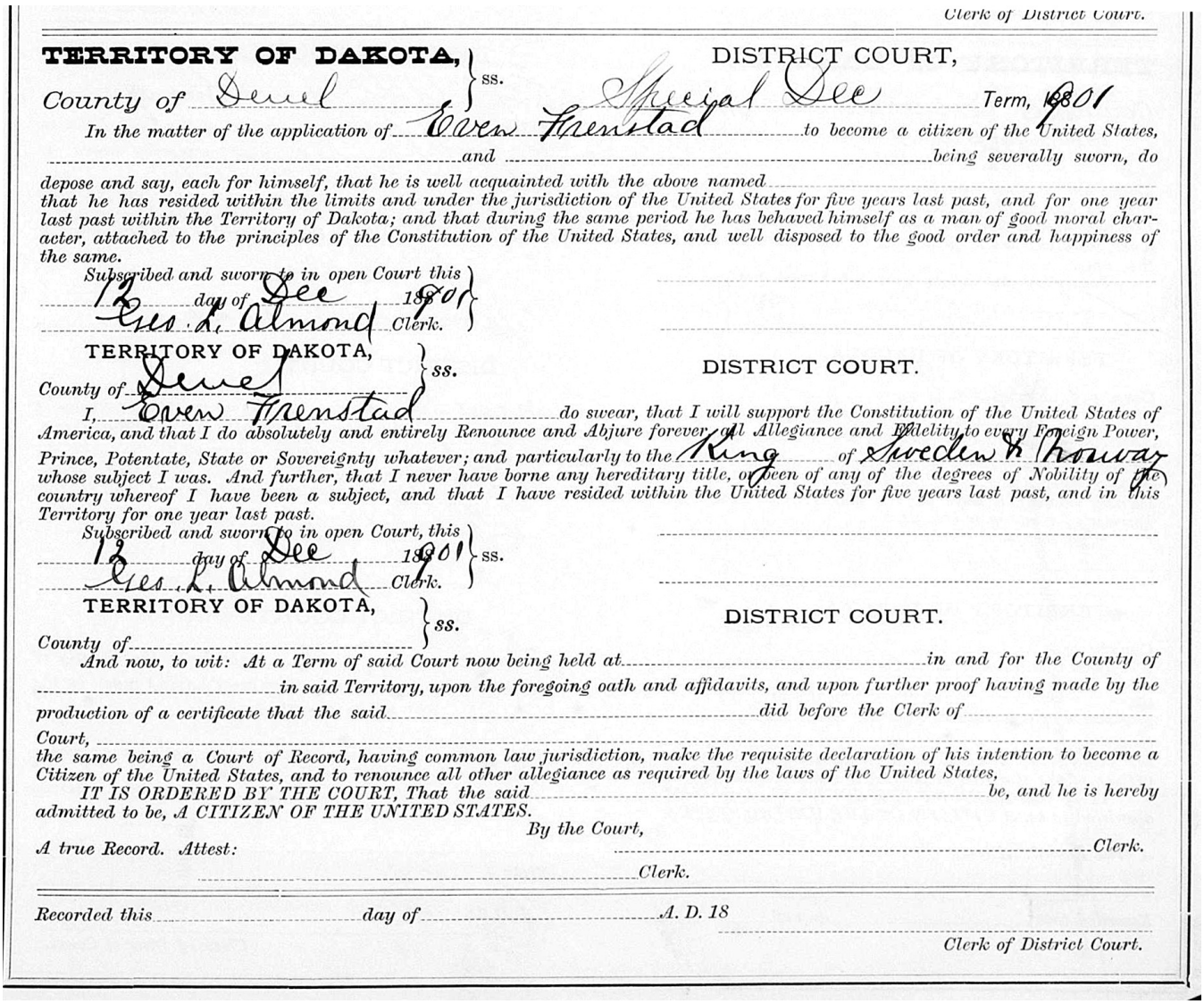
Geo L Ahmond
Clerk Circuit Court.

By ..... Deputy.

Figure 71

Petition for Naturalization - Edward Fremstad

Petition signed 12 Dec 1901 in Deuel, South Dakota.



Clerk of District Court.

TERRITORY OF DAKOTA, } ss. DISTRICT COURT,

County of Deuel Special Dec Term, 1901

In the matter of the application of Even Fremstad to become a citizen of the United States, and being severally sworn, do depose and say, each for himself, that he is well acquainted with the above named that he has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for five years last past, and for one year last past within the Territory of Dakota; and that during the same period he has behaved himself as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

Subscribed and sworn to in open Court this 12 day of Dec 1901

Geo. L. Almond Clerk.

TERRITORY OF DAKOTA, } ss. DISTRICT COURT.

County of Deuel

I, Even Fremstad do swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America, and that I do absolutely and entirely Renounce and Abjure forever all Allegiance and Fidelity to every Foreign Power, Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever; and particularly to the King of Sweden & Norway whose subject I was. And further, that I never have borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the degrees of Nobility of the country whereof I have been a subject, and that I have resided within the United States for five years last past, and in this Territory for one year last past.

Subscribed and sworn to in open Court, this 12 day of Dec 1901 } ss.

Geo. L. Almond Clerk.

TERRITORY OF DAKOTA, } ss. DISTRICT COURT.

County of

And now, to wit: At a Term of said Court now being held at in and for the County of in said Territory, upon the foregoing oath and affidavits, and upon further proof having made by the production of a certificate that the said did before the Clerk of Court, the same being a Court of Record, having common law jurisdiction, make the requisite declaration of his intention to become a Citizen of the United States, and to renounce all other allegiance as required by the laws of the United States.

IT IS ORDERED BY THE COURT, That the said be, and he is hereby admitted to be, A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

By the Court,

A true Record. Attest: Clerk.

Clerk.

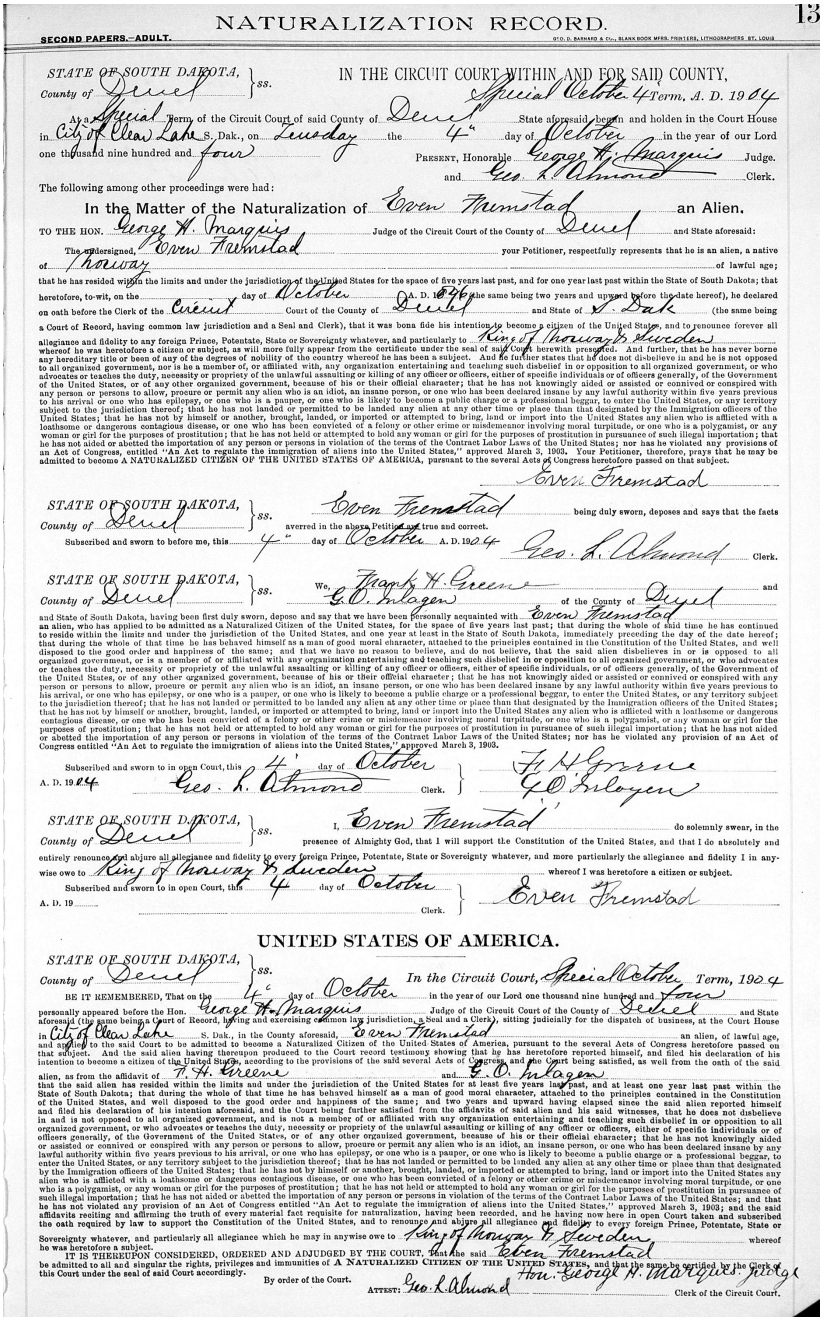
Recorded this day of A. D. 18

Clerk of District Court.

Figure 72

Oath of Allegiance - Edward Fremstad

Swore Oath of Allegiance 4 Oct 1904 at Deuel County Circuit Court, South Dakota.



NATURALIZATION RECORD. 13

SECOND PAPERS.—ADULT.

GEO. D. BARNARD & CO., BLANK BOOK MFRS. PRINTERS, LITHOGRAPHERS ST. LOUIS

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, County of Deuel } ss. IN THE CIRCUIT COURT WITHIN AND FOR SAID COUNTY,

Special October 4 Term. A. D. 1904

At a Special Term of the Circuit Court of said County of Deuel State aforesaid, begun and holden in the Court House in City of Clear Lake S. Dak., on Tuesday the 4th day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and four

PRESENT, Honorable George H. Marquis Judge.
and Geo. L. Almond Clerk.

The following among other proceedings were had:

In the Matter of the Naturalization of Even Fremstad an Alien.

TO THE HON. George H. Marquis Judge of the Circuit Court of the County of Deuel and State aforesaid:

The undersigned, Even Fremstad your Petitioner, respectfully represents that he is an alien, a native of Norway of lawful age; that he has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for the space of five years last past, and for one year last past within the State of South Dakota; that heretofore, to-wit, on the day of October A. D. 1899 he same being two years and upward before the date hereof), he declared on oath before the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the County of Deuel and State of S. Dak. (the same being a Court of Record, having common law jurisdiction and a Seal and Clerk), that it was bona fide his intention to become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to King of Norway & Sweden whereof he was heretofore a citizen or subject, as will more fully appear from the certificate under the seal of said Court herewith presented. And further, that he has never borne any hereditary title or been of any of the degrees of nobility of the country whereof he has been a subject. And he further states that he does not disbelieve in and he is not opposed to all organized government, nor is he a member of, or affiliated with, any organization entertaining and teaching such disbelief in or opposition to all organized government, or who advocates or teaches the duty, necessity or propriety of the unlawful assaulting or killing of any officer or officers, either of specific individuals or of officers generally, of the Government of the United States, or of any other organized government, because of his or their official character; that he has not knowingly aided or assisted or connived or conspired with any person or persons to allow, procure or permit any alien who is an idiot, an insane person, or one who has been declared insane by any lawful authority within five years previous to his arrival or one who has epilepsy, or one who is a pauper, or one who is likely to become a public charge or a professional beggar, to enter the United States, or any territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof; that he has not landed or permitted to be landed any alien at any other time or place than that designated by the Immigration officers of the United States; that he has not by himself or another, brought, landed, or imported or attempted to bring, land or import into the United States any alien who is afflicted with a loathsome or dangerous contagious disease, or one who has been convicted of a felony or other crime or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, or one who is a polygamist, or any woman or girl for the purposes of prostitution; that he has not held or attempted to hold any woman or girl for the purposes of prostitution in pursuance of such illegal importation; that he has not aided or abetted the importation of any person or persons in violation of the terms of the Contract Labor Laws of the United States; nor has he violated any provisions of an Act of Congress, entitled "An Act to regulate the immigration of aliens into the United States," approved March 3, 1903. Your Petitioner, therefore, prays that he may be admitted to become A NATURALIZED CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, pursuant to the several Acts of Congress heretofore passed on that subject.

Even Fremstad

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, County of Deuel } ss. Even Fremstad being duly sworn, deposes and says that the facts averred in the above Petition are true and correct.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 4th day of October A. D. 1904 Geo. L. Almond Clerk.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, County of Deuel } ss. We, Frank H. Greene and E. O. Inlagen of the County of Deuel and State of South Dakota, having been first duly sworn, depose and say that we have been personally acquainted with Even Fremstad an alien, who has applied to be admitted as a Naturalized Citizen of the United States, for the space of five years last past; that during the whole of said time he has continued to reside within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States, and one year at least in the State of South Dakota, immediately preceding the day of the date hereof; that during the whole of that time he has behaved himself as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles contained in the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same; and that we have no reason to believe, and do not believe, that the said alien disbelieves in or is opposed to all organized government, or is a member of or affiliated with any organization entertaining and teaching such disbelief in or opposition to all organized government, or who advocates or teaches the duty, necessity or propriety of the unlawful assaulting or killing of any officer or officers, either of specific individuals, or of officers generally, of the Government of the United States, or of any other organized government, because of his or their official character; that he has not knowingly aided or assisted or connived or conspired with any person or persons to allow, procure or permit any alien who is an idiot, an insane person, or one who has been declared insane by any lawful authority within five years previous to his arrival, or one who has epilepsy, or one who is a pauper, or one who is likely to become a public charge or a professional beggar, to enter the United States, or any territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof; that he has not landed or permitted to be landed any alien at any other time or place than that designated by the Immigration officers of the United States; that he has not by himself or another, brought, landed, or imported or attempted to bring, land or import into the United States any alien who is afflicted with a loathsome or dangerous contagious disease, or one who has been convicted of a felony or other crime or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, or one who is a polygamist, or any woman or girl for the purposes of prostitution; that he has not held or attempted to hold any woman or girl for the purposes of prostitution in pursuance of such illegal importation; that he has not aided or abetted the importation of any person or persons in violation of the terms of the Contract Labor Laws of the United States; nor has he violated any provision of an Act of Congress entitled "An Act to regulate the immigration of aliens into the United States," approved March 3, 1903.

Subscribed and sworn to in open Court, this 4th day of October A. D. 1904 Geo. L. Almond Clerk. } Frank H. Greene, E. O. Inlagen

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, County of Deuel } ss. I, Even Fremstad do solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and that I do absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and more particularly the allegiance and fidelity I in any-wise owe to King of Norway & Sweden whereof I was heretofore a citizen or subject.

Subscribed and sworn to in open Court, this 4th day of October A. D. 19 Clerk. } Even Fremstad

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, County of Deuel } ss. In the Circuit Court, Special October Term, 1904

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the 4th day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and four personally appeared before the Hon. George H. Marquis Judge of the Circuit Court of the County of Deuel and State aforesaid (the same being a Court of Record, having and exercising common law jurisdiction, a Seal and a Clerk), sitting judicially for the dispatch of business, at the Court House in City of Clear Lake S. Dak., in the County aforesaid, Even Fremstad an alien, of lawful age, and applied to the said Court to be admitted to become a Naturalized Citizen of the United States of America, pursuant to the several Acts of Congress heretofore passed on that subject. And the said alien having thereupon produced to the Court record testimony showing that he has heretofore reported himself, and filed his declaration of his intention to become a citizen of the United States, according to the provisions of the said several Acts of Congress, and the Court being satisfied, as well from the oath of the said alien, as from the affidavit of F. H. Greene and E. O. Inlagen that the said alien has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for at least five years last past, and at least one year last past within the State of South Dakota; that during the whole of that time he has behaved himself as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles contained in the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same; and two years and upward having elapsed since the said alien reported himself and filed his declaration of his intention aforesaid, and the Court being further satisfied from the affidavits of said alien and his said witnesses, that he does not disbelieve in and is not opposed to all organized government, and is not a member of or affiliated with any organization entertaining and teaching such disbelief in or opposition to all organized government, or who advocates or teaches the duty, necessity or propriety of the unlawful assaulting or killing of any officer or officers, either of specific individuals or of officers generally, of the Government of the United States, or of any other organized government, because of his or their official character; that he has not knowingly aided or assisted or connived or conspired with any person or persons to allow, procure or permit any alien who is an idiot, an insane person, or one who has been declared insane by any lawful authority within five years previous to his arrival, or one who has epilepsy, or one who is a pauper, or one who is likely to become a public charge or a professional beggar, to enter the United States, or any territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof; that he has not landed or permitted to be landed any alien at any other time or place than that designated by the Immigration officers of the United States; that he has not by himself or another, brought, landed, or imported or attempted to bring, land or import into the United States any alien who is afflicted with a loathsome or dangerous contagious disease, or one who has been convicted of a felony or other crime or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, or one who is a polygamist, or any woman or girl for the purposes of prostitution; that he has not held or attempted to hold any woman or girl for the purposes of prostitution in pursuance of such illegal importation; that he has not aided or abetted the importation of any person or persons in violation of the terms of the Contract Labor Laws of the United States; and that he has not violated any provision of an Act of Congress entitled "An Act to regulate the immigration of aliens into the United States," approved March 3, 1903; and the said affidavits reciting and affirming the truth of every material fact requisite for naturalization, having been recorded, and he having now here in open Court taken and subscribed the oath required by law to support the Constitution of the United States, and to renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly all allegiance which he may in anywise owe to King of Norway & Sweden whereof he was heretofore a subject.

IT IS THEREUPON CONSIDERED, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED BY THE COURT, That the said Even Fremstad be admitted to all and singular the rights, privileges and immunities of A NATURALIZED CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, and that the same be certified by the Clerk of this Court under the seal of said Court accordingly.

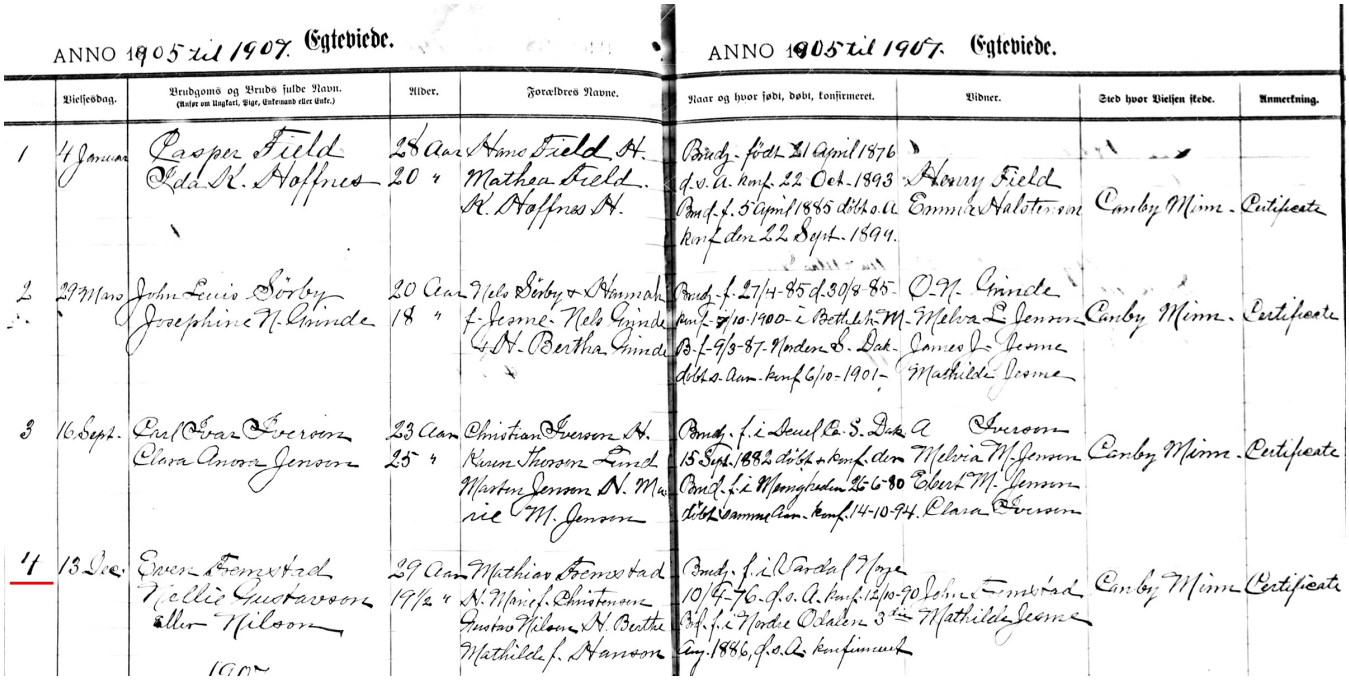
By order of the Court.

ATTEST: Geo. L. Almond Clerk of the Circuit Court. Hon. George H. Marquis Judge

Figure 73

Edward Fremstad and Nilla Gustavsdatter Marriage

Even Fremstad, born 10 Apr 1876 in Vardal Norway, age 29. Parents Mathias Fremstad and Marie Christensen. Nellie Gustavson Eller Nilson born North Odalen. Parents Gustav Nilson and Berthe Mathilde Hanson. Married 13 Dec 1904 in Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Canby, Minnesota.



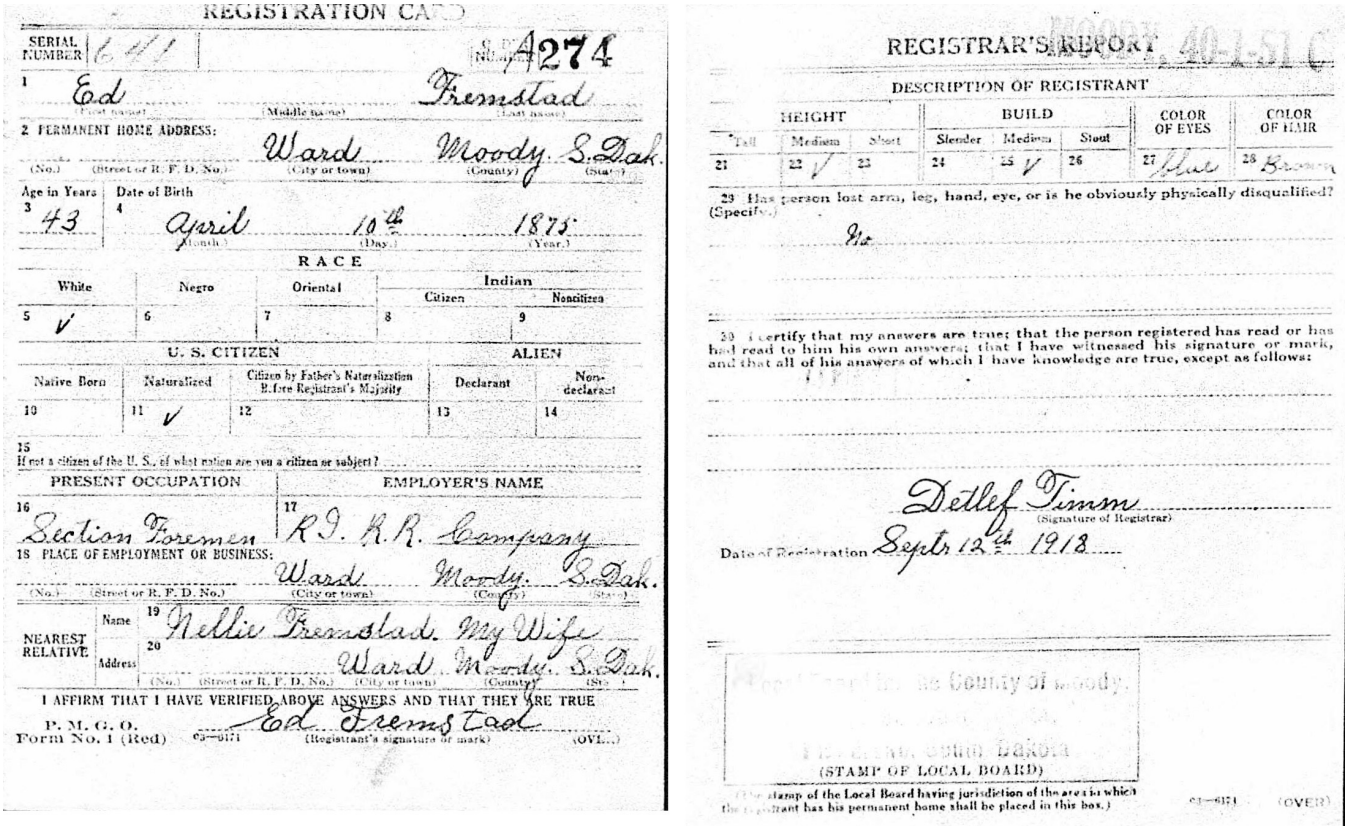
ANNO 1905 til 1907. Egteviede.

	Vielsesdag.	Brudgoms og Bruds fulde Navn. (Enker om Ungkarl, Pige, Enkemand eller Enke.)	Alder.	Forældres Navne.	Naar og hvor født, døbt, konfirmeret.	Vidner.	Sted hvor Vielsen skede.	Anmerkning.
1	1 Januar	Casper Field Ida K. Hoffnes	28 Aar 20 "	Hans Field A. Mathea Field. K. Hoffnes A.	Bmd. født 21 April 1876 f.v.U. konf. 22 Oct. 1893 Bm.d.f. 5 April 1885 d.t.b.o.U. konf. den 22 Sept. 1894.	Henry Field Emma Halvorsen	Canby Minn.	Certificate
2	29 Mars	John Louis Sörby Josephine M. Grinde	20 Aar 18 "	Nels Sörby & Hannah f. Jesme. Nels Grinde & A. Bertha Grinde	Bmd. f. 27/4-85 d. 30/8-85- konf. 7/10-1900 i Beth. L. K. B. f. 9/3-87 i Minden S. Dak. d.t.b.o. Aam. konf. 6/10-1901-	O. M. Grinde Melvin L. Jensen James L. Jesme Mathilde Jesme	Canby Minn.	Certificate
3	16 Sept.	Carl Ovar Everson Clara Anna Jenson	23 Aar 25 "	Christian Everson A. Karen Thorson Enid Martin Jensen N. Marie M. Jenson	Bmd. f. i Seuel Co. S. Dak. 15 Sept. 1882 d.t.b. + konf. den Bmd. f. i Monroe den 26-6-80 d.t.b. Samme Aam. konf. 14-10-94.	A. Everson Melvin M. Jenson Ebert M. Jenson Clara Everson	Canby Minn.	Certificate
4	13 Dec.	Even Fremstad Nellie Gustavson eller Nilson 1907	29 Aar 17 1/2 "	Mathias Fremstad N. Marie f. Christensen Gustav Nilson N. Berthe Mathilde f. Hanson	Bmd. f. i Vardal Norge 10/4-76 d.s.o. A. konf. 12/10-90 B. f. i Nordre Odalen 3 die M. Eng. 1886, d.s.o. A. konfirmeret	Edward Fremstad Mathilde Jesme	Canby Minn.	Certificate

Figure 74

WWI Draft Card - Edward Fremstad

Registered 12 Sep, 1918. Born 10 Apr 1875, age 43, at Ward, Moody County, South Dakota. Medium height, medium build, Blue eyes, brown hair. Working as Section Foreman for the Rock Island Railroad Company. Wife is Nelly Fremstad.



REGISTRATION CARD

SERIAL NUMBER 6 411 — ORDER NUMBER 4274

1 Ed (First name) — (Middle name) — Fremstad (Last name)

2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: (No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) Ward (City or town) Moody (County) S. Dak. (State)

3 Age in Years: 43 — 4 Date of Birth: April (Month) 10th (Day) 1875 (Year)

RACE

White	Negro	Oriental	Indian: Citizen	Indian: Nontaxed
5 ✓	6	7	8	9

U. S. CITIZEN: Native Born	Naturalized	Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority	ALIEN: Declarant	ALIEN: Non-declarant
10	11 ✓	12	13	14

15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject? .....

PRESENT OCCUPATION — EMPLOYER'S NAME

16 Section Foremen — 17 R. I. R. Company

18 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: (No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) Ward (City or town) Moody (County) S. Dak. (State)

NEAREST RELATIVE — Name: 19 Nellie Fremstad. My Wife

Address: 20 (No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) Ward (City or town) Moody (County) S. Dak. (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE

P. M. G. O. Form No. 1 (Red) 68—6171 — Ed Fremstad (Registrant's signature or mark) (OVER)

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

HEIGHT: Tall	Medium	Short	BUILD: Slender	Medium	Stout	COLOR OF EYES	COLOR OF HAIR
21	22 ✓	23	24	25 ✓	26	27 Blue	28 Brown

29 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified? (Specify) No

30 I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Detlef Timm (Signature of Registrar)

Date of Registration Septr 12th 1918

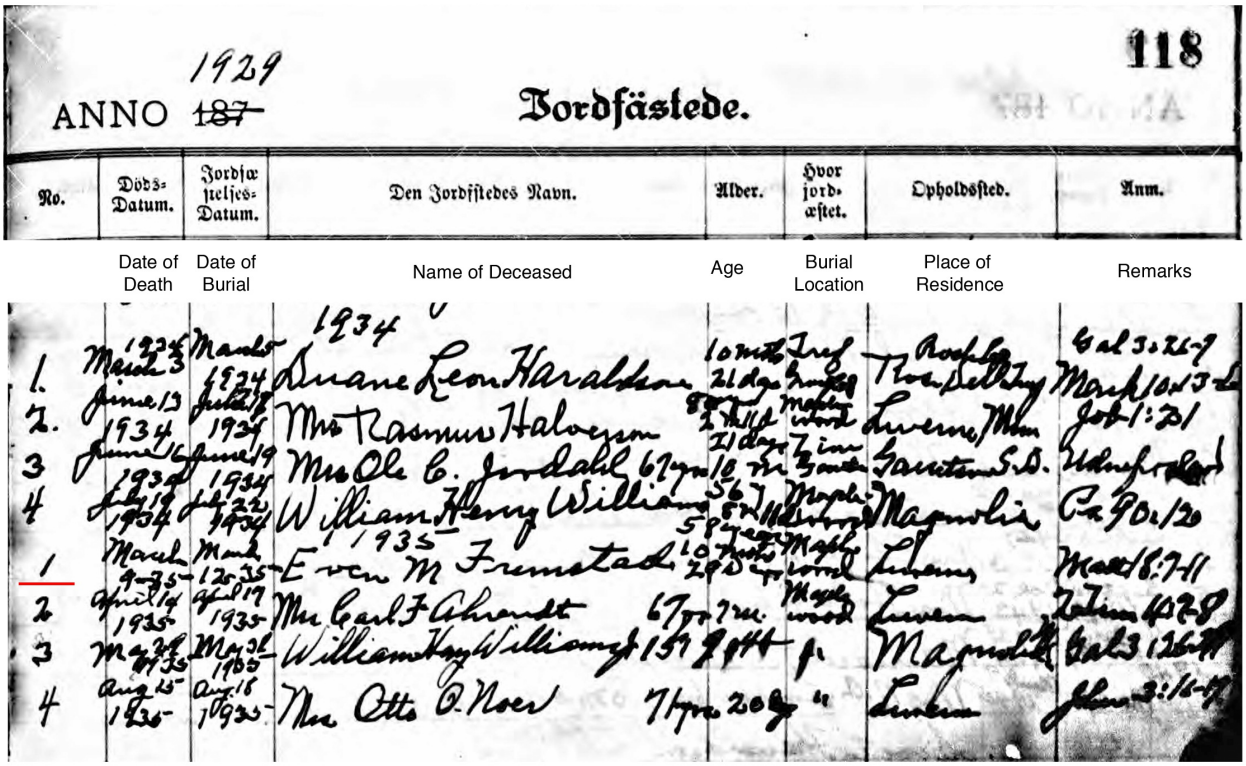
(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.) 68—6171 (OVER)

Figure 75

Church Record of Edward Fremstad's Death

Died 9, Mar 1935. Buried 12 Mar 1935. Church was Rock River Congregation, Luverne Minnesota. The remark references Matthew 18:7-11.



ANNO 1929 ~~187~~ — Jordfæstede. — 118

No.	Dödsdatum.	Jordfæstelsesdatum.	Den Jordfæstedes Navn.	Alder.	Hvor jordæstet.	Opholdssted.	Anm.
	Date of Death	Date of Burial	Name of Deceased	Age	Burial Location	Place of Residence	Remarks

Figure 76

John Fremstad / Johan Pedersen

Birth/Baptism Record - John Fremstad (Johan Pedersen)

Born 26 Mar 1882. Baptized 21 May 1882 at Veldre, Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway. His mother was Maria Kristiansdtr., a young unmarried servant, residing at Stensengeie Ringsaker. His father was Peder Jensen, an unmarried day laborer, also residing at Stensengeie Ringsaker.

The Remarks which apply largely to Johan's brother Even:

> His 2nd illegitimate relationship; her 2nd illegitimate relationship. Note: her 2nd illegitimate birth and his 2nd (has travelled to America). Her first child was born 10 Apr 1876. Alleged father: Mathias Andersen Mengshoel at Næs (according to the informant). Baptized in Næs. Reported by the child's mother 20 May 1882.

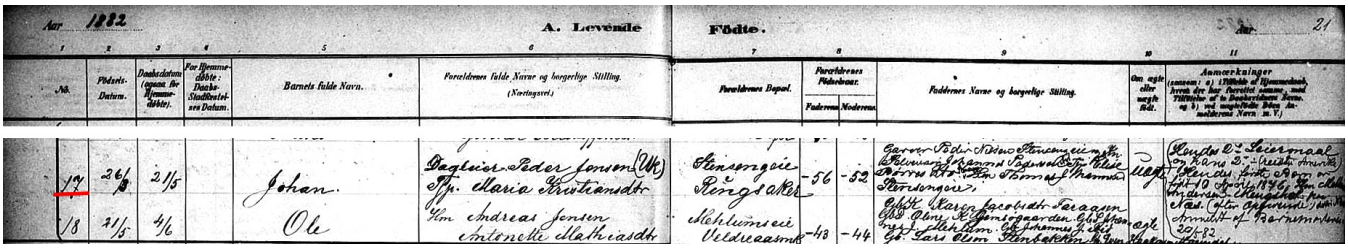


Figure 77

Emigration Record - John Fremstad (Johan Togstad)

Born about 1882, age 11. Departed from Oslo, Norway on 2 Jun 1893 destined form Quebec on the SS Angelo. Last residence was Stange.

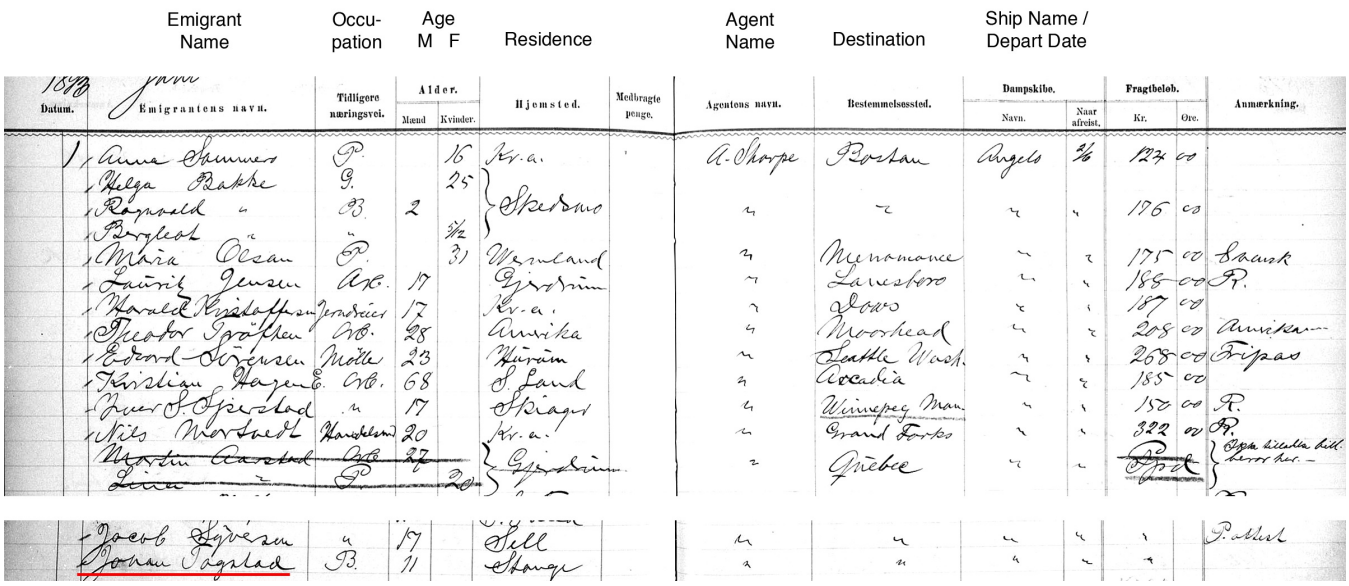
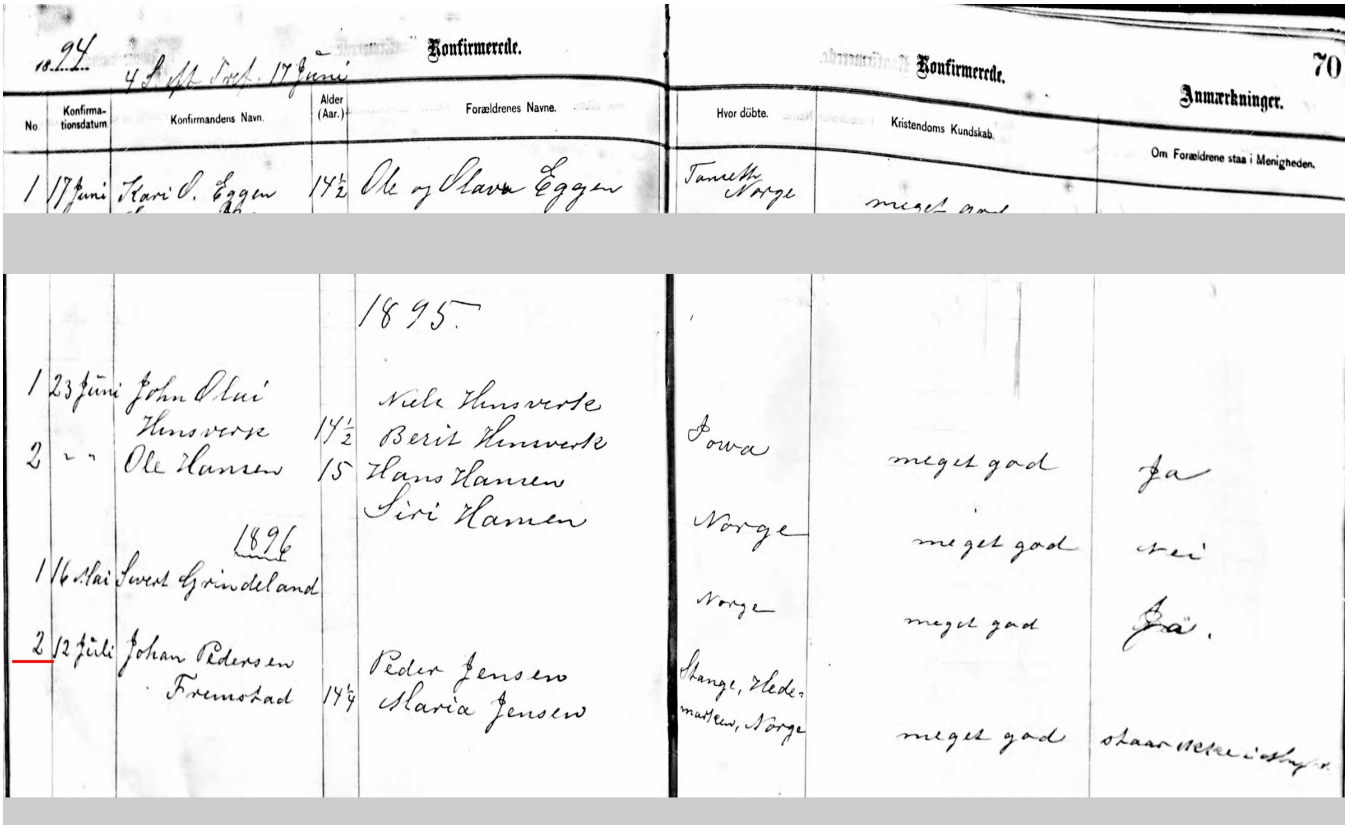


Figure 78

Confirmation - John Fremstad (Johan Fremstad)

12 Jul 1894, East Highland Lutheran Church, Brandt, South Dakota. Parents are Peder and Maria Jensen. He had been was baptized in Stange. His score was "very good". The remarks indicate his parents were in Nes, Norway.

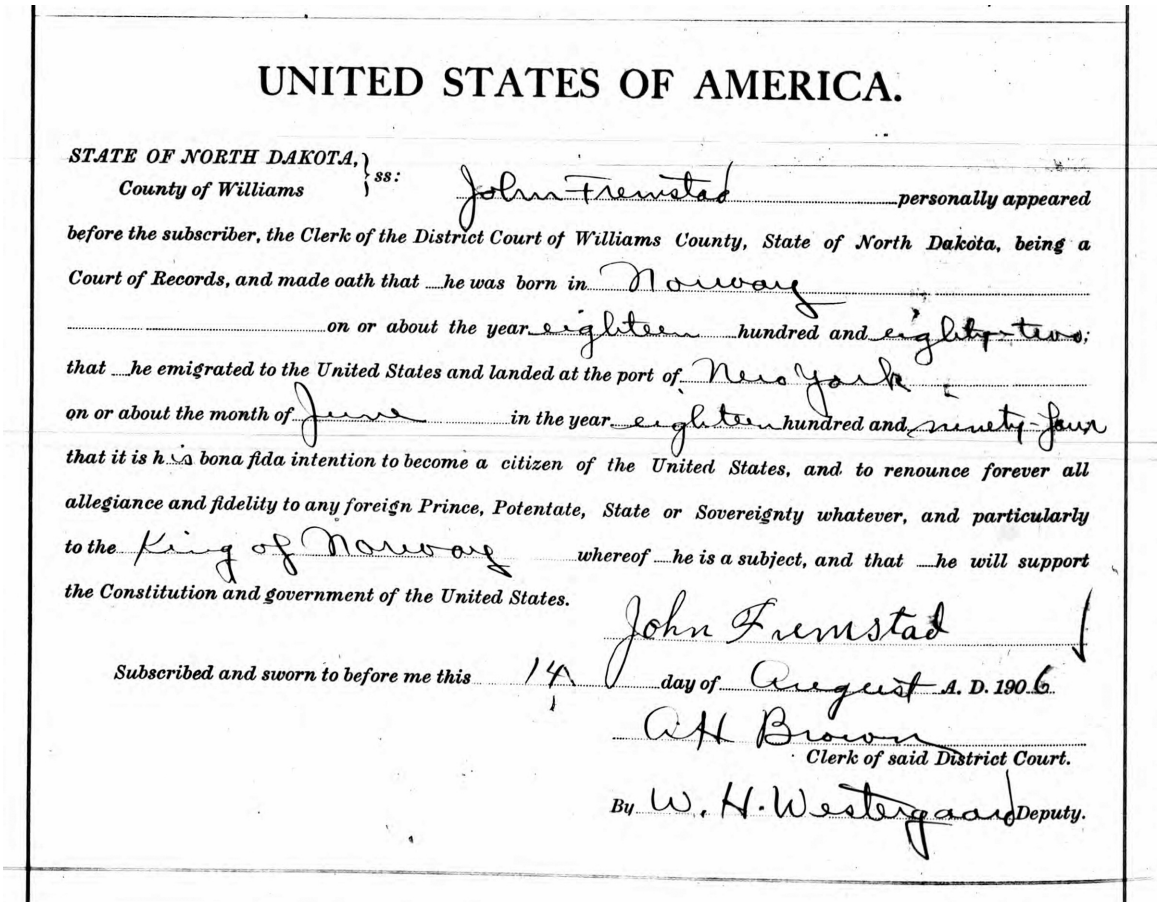


No	Konfirmationsdatum	Konfirmandens Navn.	Alder (Aar.)	Forældrenes Navne.	Hvor døbte.	Kristendoms Kundskab.	Anmærkninger. Om Forældrene staa i Menigheden.
1	17 Juni	Kari O. Eggen	14½	Ole og Maria Eggen	Tamelby Norge	meget god	
1	23 Juni	John Olai Hansverse	14½	Niels Hansverse Berit Hansverse	Norge	meget god	Ja
2	"	Ole Hansen	15	Hans Hansen Siri Hansen	Norge	meget god	Nei
1	16 Mai	Swen Gyndeland			Norge	meget god	Ja.
2	12 Juli	Johan Pedersen Fremstad	14¼	Peder Jensen Maria Jensen	Stange, Hedemarken, Norge	meget god	staar i Menigheden

Figure 79

Naturalization Intent - John Fremstad

Signed 14 Aug 1906 at District Court of Williams County, North Dakota. Born 1882, Norway. Arrived Jun 1894, New York (both incorrect).



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, County of Williams } ss: John Fremstad personally appeared before the subscriber, the Clerk of the District Court of Williams County, State of North Dakota, being a Court of Records, and made oath that he was born in Norway on or about the year eighteen hundred and eighty-two; that he emigrated to the United States and landed at the port of New York on or about the month of June in the year eighteen hundred and ninety-four that it is his bona fida intention to become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the King of Norway whereof he is a subject, and that he will support the Constitution and government of the United States.

John Fremstad

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14 day of August A. D. 1906

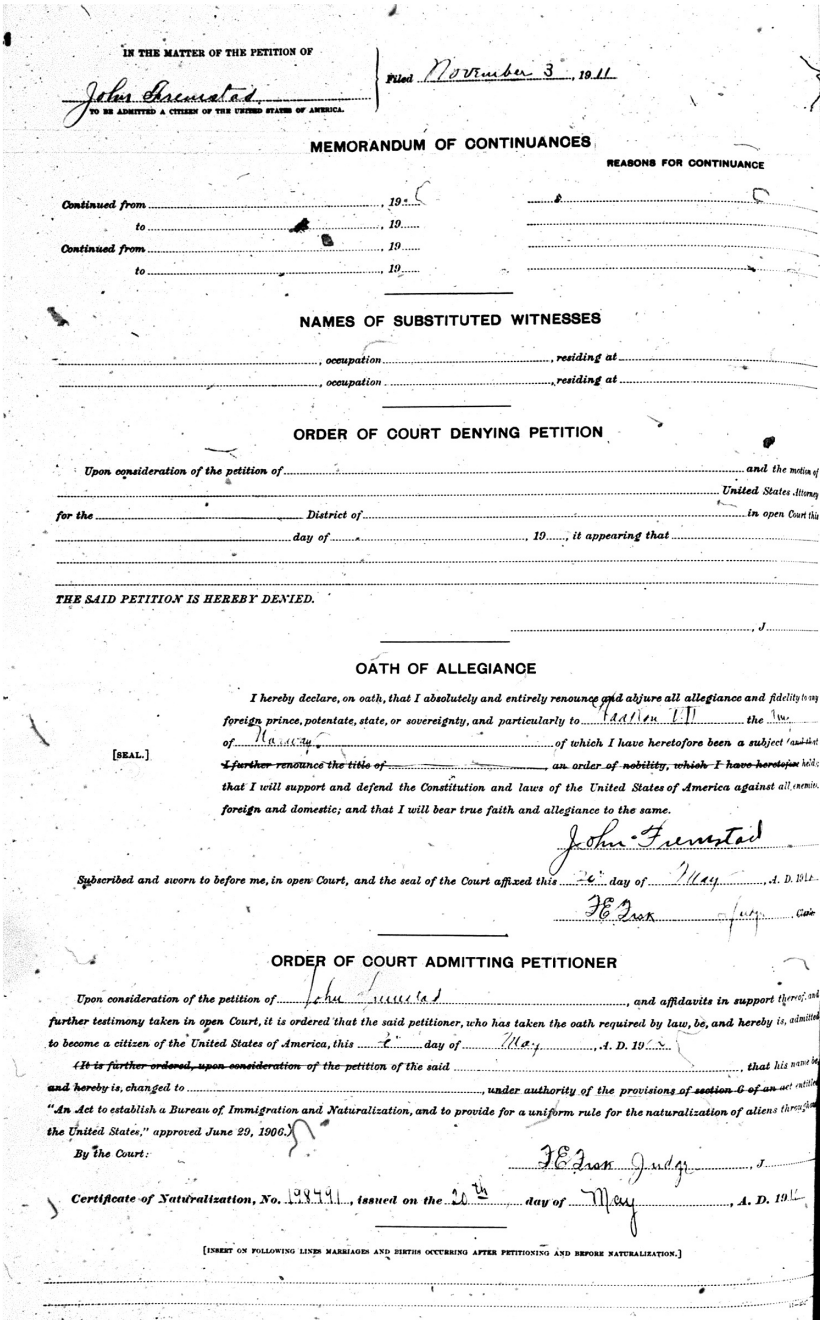
A. H. Brown
Clerk of said District Court.

By W. H. Westergaard Deputy.

Figure 80

Oath of Allegiance - John Fremstad

Filed 3 Nov 1911, issued on 20 May 1912.



IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF

John Fremstad

TO BE ADMITTED A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Filed November 3, 1911

MEMORANDUM OF CONTINUANCES

REASONS FOR CONTINUANCE

Continued from ....., 19..
to ....., 19..
Continued from ....., 19..
to ....., 19..

NAMES OF SUBSTITUTED WITNESSES

....., occupation....., residing at .....
....., occupation....., residing at .....

ORDER OF COURT DENYING PETITION

Upon consideration of the petition of ..... and the motion of
..... United States Attorney
for the ..... District of ..... in open Court this
..... day of ....., 19....., it appearing that .....
.....
.....

THE SAID PETITION IS HEREBY DENIED.

....., J.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to Haakon VII the King of Norway of which I have heretofore been a subject ~~and that I further renounce the title of ..... an order of nobility, which I have heretofore held~~; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same.

[SEAL.]

John Fremstad

Subscribed and sworn to before me, in open Court, and the seal of the Court affixed this 20 day of May, A. D. 1912.

FE Dean Judge Clerk

ORDER OF COURT ADMITTING PETITIONER

Upon consideration of the petition of John Fremstad, and affidavits in support thereof, and further testimony taken in open Court, it is ordered that the said petitioner, who has taken the oath required by law, be, and hereby is, admitted to become a citizen of the United States of America, this 20 day of May, A. D. 1912.

~~It is further ordered, upon consideration of the petition of the said ..... that his name be and hereby is, changed to ..... under authority of the provisions of section 6 of an act entitled "An Act to establish a Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, and to provide for a uniform rule for the naturalization of aliens throughout the United States," approved June 29, 1906.~~

By the Court:

FE Dean Judge, J.

Certificate of Naturalization, No. 19491, issued on the 20th day of May, A. D. 1912

[INSERT ON FOLLOWING LINES MARRIAGES AND BIRTHS OCCURRING AFTER PETITIONING AND BEFORE NATURALIZATION.]

.....
.....

Figure 81

John Fremstad's Homestead

In Section 33 of Barr Butte Township, North Dakota, 1914.

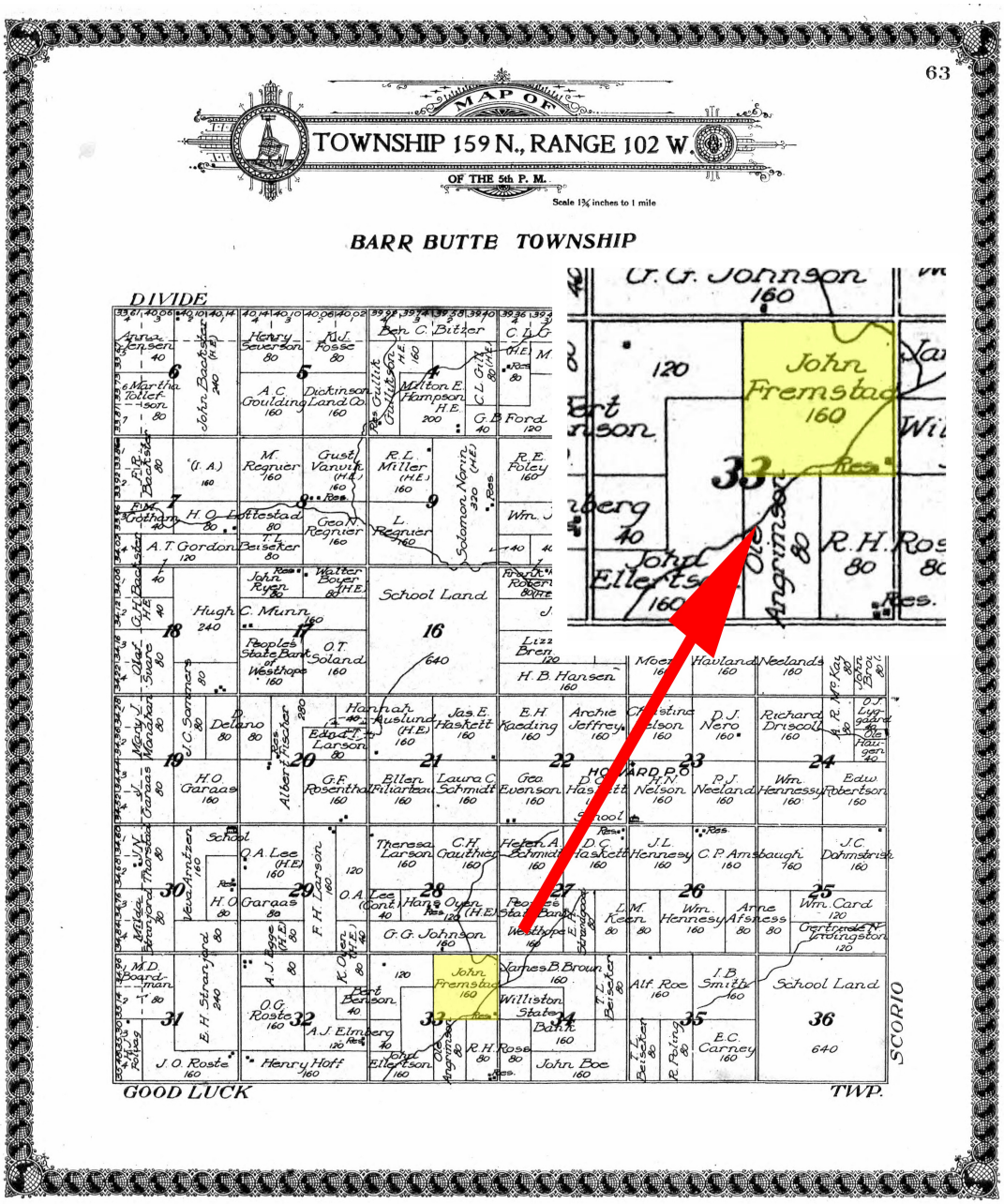
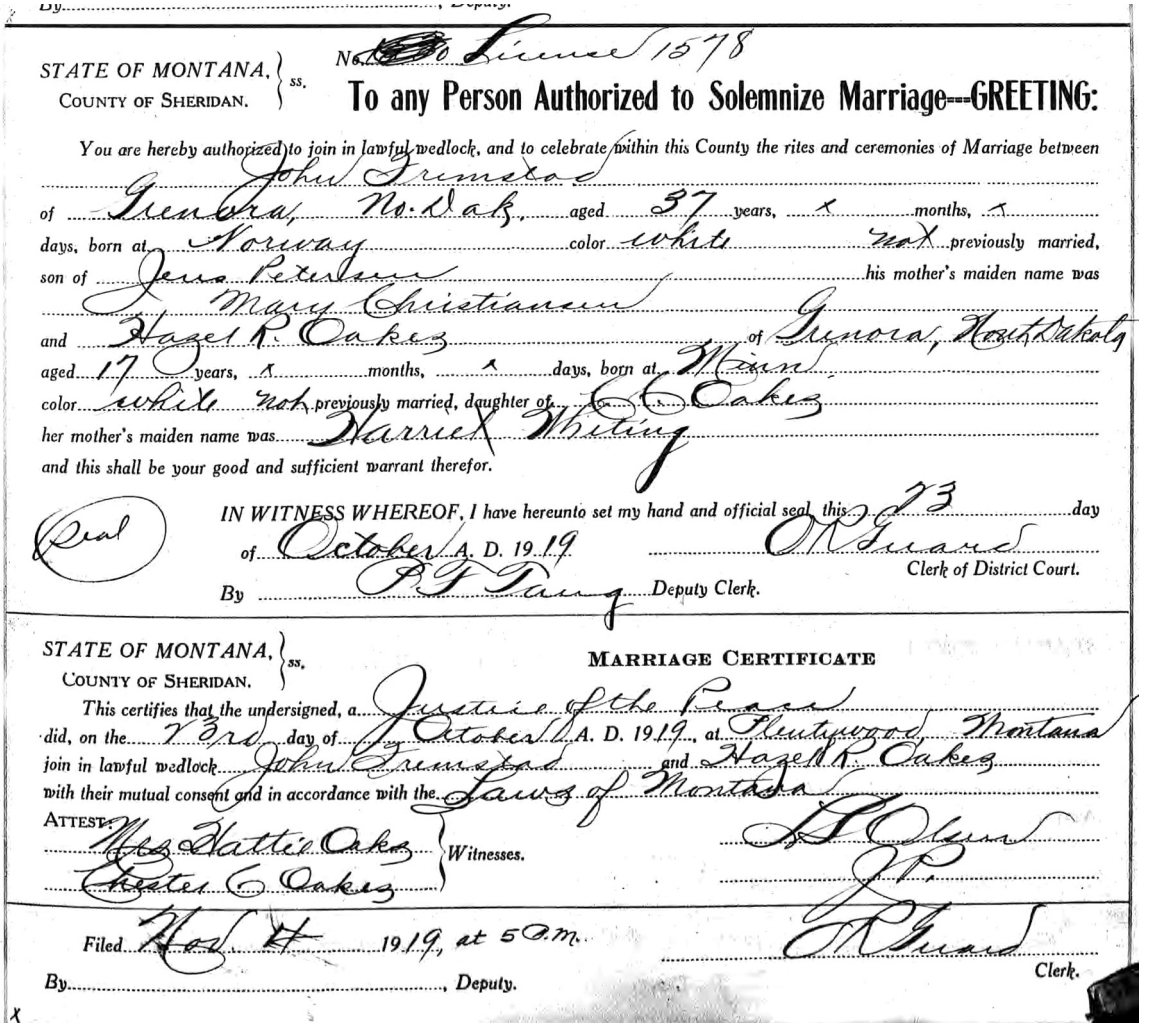


Figure 82

Marriage Certificate - John Fremstad & Hazel Oakes

Marriage date 23 Oct 1919, Plentywood, Montana. John was born 1882, age 37 in Norway. Hazel was born 1902, age 17, in Minnesota. His parents were Jens Petersen and Mary Petersen. Her parents were C.C. Oakes and Harriet Oakes.



STATE OF MONTANA, } ss.
COUNTY OF SHERIDAN.

No. [illegible] License 1578

To any Person Authorized to Solemnize Marriage---GREETING:

You are hereby authorized to join in lawful wedlock, and to celebrate within this County the rites and ceremonies of Marriage between John Fremstad of Plentywood, No. Dak., aged 37 years, x months, x days, born at Norway color white ~~no~~ X previously married, son of Jens Petersen his mother's maiden name was Mary Christiansen and Hazel R. Oakes of Plentywood, North Dakota aged 17 years, x months, x days, born at Minn. color white ~~not~~ previously married, daughter of C.C. Oakes her mother's maiden name was Harriet Whiting and this shall be your good and sufficient warrant therefor.

Seal

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal this 23 day of October A. D. 19 19

O.R. Evans
Clerk of District Court.

By P.F. Tang Deputy Clerk.

STATE OF MONTANA, } ss.
COUNTY OF SHERIDAN.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

This certifies that the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace did, on the 23rd day of October A. D. 1919, at Plentywood Montana join in lawful wedlock John Fremstad and Hazel R. Oakes with their mutual consent and in accordance with the Laws of Montana.

ATTEST: Mrs Hattie Oakes, Chester C. Oakes } Witnesses.

L.L. Olsen J.P.

Filed Nov 4 1919, at 5 o.m.

O.R. Evans Clerk.

By ..... Deputy.

Figure 83

John Fremstad Death Certificate

Died 18 Jan 1950, age 66. in Spokane, Washington having resided there 2 years. Born 26 mar 1883 in Norway. Cause of death was coronary.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH 9449
PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS SECTION
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

REG. DIST. NO. 114 REGISTRAR'S NO. STATE FILE NO. 1564

1. PLACE OF DEATH
a. COUNTY: Spokane
b. CITY OR TOWN (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL and give township): Spokane
c. LENGTH OF STAY (in this place): 2 years
d. FULL NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION (If not in hospital or institution, give street address or location): Sacred Heart Hospital

2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived. If institution: residence before admission.)
a. STATE: Washington b. COUNTY: Spokane
c. CITY OR TOWN (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL and give township): Spokane
d. STREET ADDRESS (If rural, give location): W 224 Indiana Ave.

3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print): a. (First) John b. (Middle) c. (Last) Fremstad
4. DATE OF DEATH (Month) (Day) (Year): Jan 18 1950

5. SEX	6. COLOR OR RACE	7. MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (Specify)	8. DATE OF BIRTH	9. AGE (In years last birthday)	If Under 1 Yr. Months	Days	If Under 24 Hrs. Hours	Min.
Male	White	Married	March 26 1883	66				

10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired)	10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY	11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country)	12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY?
Laborer	Spokane, City St. Dept.	Norway	USA

13. FATHER'S NAME: Unobtainable
14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME: Unobtainable 4201

15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U. S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown) (If yes, give war or dates of service)	16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.	17. INFORMANT
no x	502-10-6641	Mrs. Hazel W. Fremstad

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION

18. CAUSE OF DEATH Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c)
*This does not mean the mode of dying, such as heart failure, asthenia, etc. It means the disease, injury, or complication which caused death.

		INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH
I. DISEASE OR CONDITION DIRECTLY LEADING TO DEATH* (a)	Coronary	3 hrs
ANTECEDENT CAUSES Morbid conditions, if any, giving rise to the above cause (a) stating the underlying cause last. Due to (b)		
Due to (c)		
II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS Conditions contributing to the death but not related to the disease or condition causing death.	Hem 10 da ago	10 da

19a. DATE OF OPERATION	19b. MAJOR FINDINGS OF OPERATION	20. AUTOPSY?
		Yes ☐ No ☒

21a. ACCIDENT (Specify) SUICIDE HOMICIDE	21b. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office bldg., etc.)	21c. (CITY, TOWN, OR TOWNSHIP) (COUNTY) (STATE)
21d. TIME OF INJURY (Month) (Day) (Year) (Hour) m.	21e. INJURY OCCURRED While at work ☐ Not while at work ☐	21f. HOW DID INJURY OCCUR?

22. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from Jan 15 1950 to Jan 18, 1950, that I last saw the deceased alive on Jan 17, 1950, and that death occurred at 10:05a m., from the causes and on the date stated above.

23a. SIGNATURE (Degree or title)	23b. ADDRESS	23c. DATE SIGNED
Ed Richard MD	2 [illegible] Indiana	1-20-50

24a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify)	24b. DATE	24c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY	24d. LOCATION (City, town, or county) (State)
Burial	Jan 23 1950	Fairmount	Spokane Wash.

DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REG.	REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE	25. FUNERAL DIRECTOR	ADDRESS
1-20-50	Winnifred Matheson	E.S. Hennessey N.2203 Division St.	JAN 1950

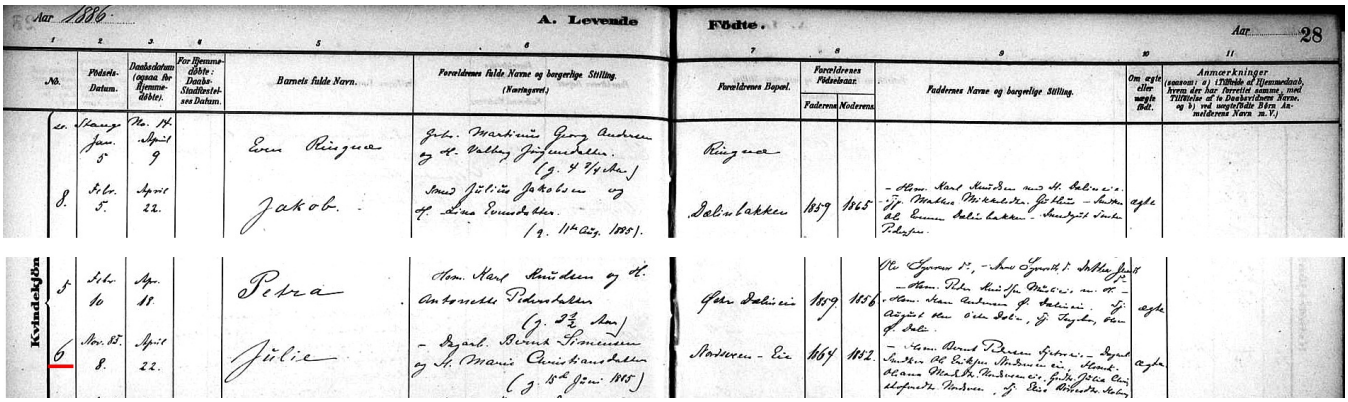
QL- 243 Robert Proctor Dep. Hennessey Funeral Home, Spokane, Wash.

Figure 84

Julia Berntsdatter Togstad

Birth/Baptism Record - Julia Togstad

Born 8 Nov 1885. Baptized 22 Apr 1886, Stange, Hedmark.



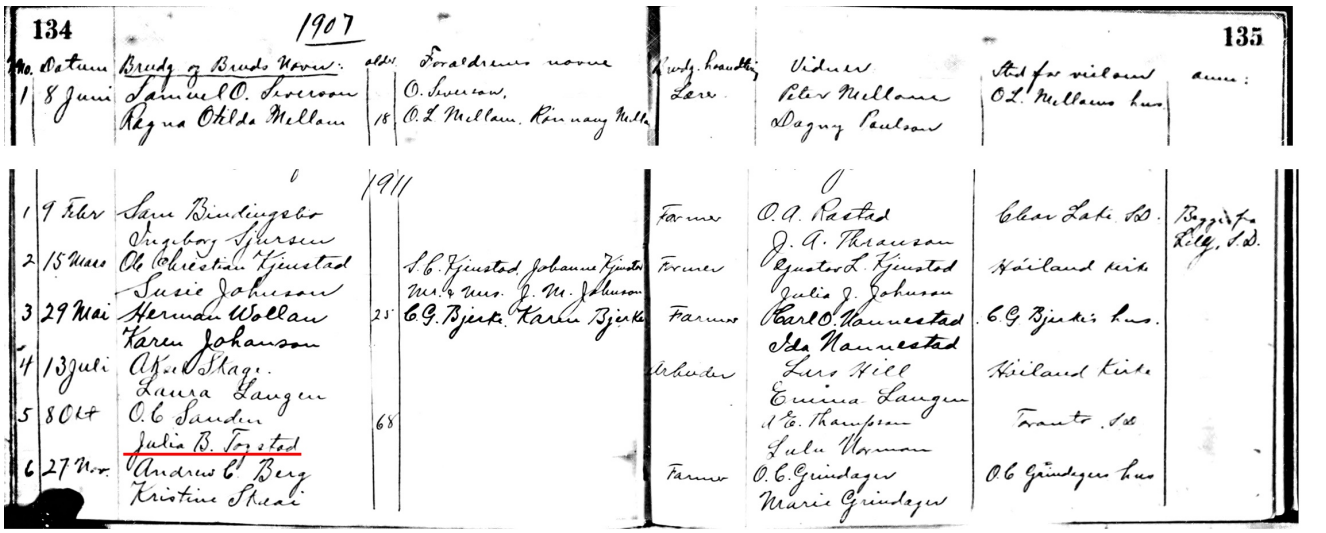
Aar 1886 — A. Levende — Fødte. — Aar 28

No.	Fødsels-Datum.	Daabsdatum (ogsaa for Hjemmedøbte).	For Hjemmedøbte: Daabs-Stadfæstelses Datum.	Barnets fulde Navn.	Forældrenes fulde Navne og borgerlige Stilling. (Næringsvei)	Forældrenes Bopæl.	Forældrenes Fødselsaar: Faderens	Forældrenes Fødselsaar: Moderens	Fadrenes Navne og borgerlige Stilling.	Om ægte eller uægte Født.	Anmærkninger (saasom: a) Tilfælde af Hjemmedaab, hvem der har forrettet samme, med Tilføielse af to Dueshrbarne Navne, og b) ved uægtefødte Børn Anmelderens Navn m. v.)
8.	Febr. 5.	April 22.		Jakob.	Sms Julius Jakobsen og hf. Lina Edvardsdatter. (f. 11te Aug. 1885).	Dalslakken	1859	1865	– Hans Karl Andersen samt H. Dalslakken. – Hf. Mathea Mikkelsen Jakobsen – Anders Clemens Dalslakken. Samtlige fra Tildspen.	ægte	
Kvindekjøn 5	Febr. 10	Apr. 18		Petra	Hans Karl Andersen og H. Antonette Pedersdatter. (f. 23/2 Aar)	Gjør Dalslien	1879	1856	Pe Syvsen P., – Anne Syvsdt. P. Dalslien P. – Hans Peter Andersen P. Dalslien. – Hf. Augusta Ane Olea Dahl, f. Taylor, Kom. f. Dalsl.	ægte	
6	Nov. 85. 8.	April 22.		Julie	– Sgard. Bernt Simonsen og H. Marie Christiansdatter. (f. 15de Jan. 1885)	Nedreren - Eie	1864	1852	– Hans Bernt Simonsen Sjøvold – Sgard Sanden Ole Eriksen Nedreren eie Skovdr. Hans Mads Pe Nedreren eie Gaardbr. Julie Olea Christiane Nedreren, f. Dahl Kirkeveien Skien	ægte	

Figure 85

Julia Togstad Marriage to Ole Sanden

Married 8 Oct 1911 in Highland Lutheran Church, Brandt, South Dakota



134 — 1907 — 135

No.	Datum	Brudg. og Bruds Navne:	alder	Forældrenes navne	Brudg. haandtering	Vidner	Sted for vielsen	anm:
1	8 Juni	Samuel O. Severson Regna Ohlda Mellam	18	O. Severson. O. L Mellam. Rinnaug Mella	Lærer	Peter Mellam Dagny Paulson	O.L. Mellams hus	

1911

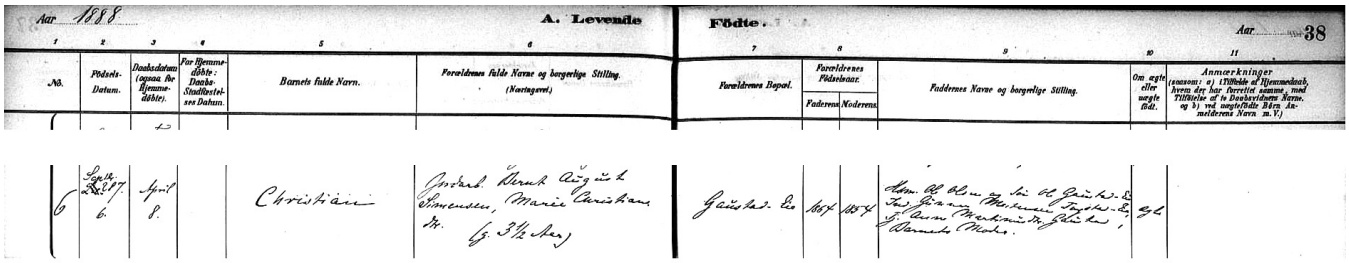
1	9 Febr	Sam Bindingsbø Ingeborg Thorsen			Farmer	O.A. Rustad	Clear Lake S.D.	Bygd: Fa. Kelly, S.D.
2	15 Mars	Ole Christian Tjustad Susie Johnson		S.C. Tjustad. Johanne Tjustad Mr & Mrs. J. M. Johnson	Farmer	J. A. Thorson Egnstad Tjustad Julia J. Johnson	Høiland kirke	
3	29 Mai	Herman Wollan Karen Johanson	25	C.G. Bjerke. Karen Bjerke	Farmer	Karl O. Mannestad Ida Mannestad	C.G. Bjerke's hus.	
4	13 Juli	Alf Skagi. Laura Langen			Arbeider	Lars Hill Emma Langen	Høiland kirke	
5	8 Okt	O.C Sanden Julia B. Togstad	68			N.C. Thompson Lulu Norman	Frants S.D.	
6	27 Nov.	Andrew C. Berg Kristine Skeai			Farmer	O.C. Grindagen Marie Grindagen	O.C. Grindagen hus	

Figure 86

Christian Berntsen Togstad

Birth/ Baptism Record - Christian Togstad

Born 6 Sep 1887. Baptized 8 Apr 1888, Stange, Hedmark, Norway.



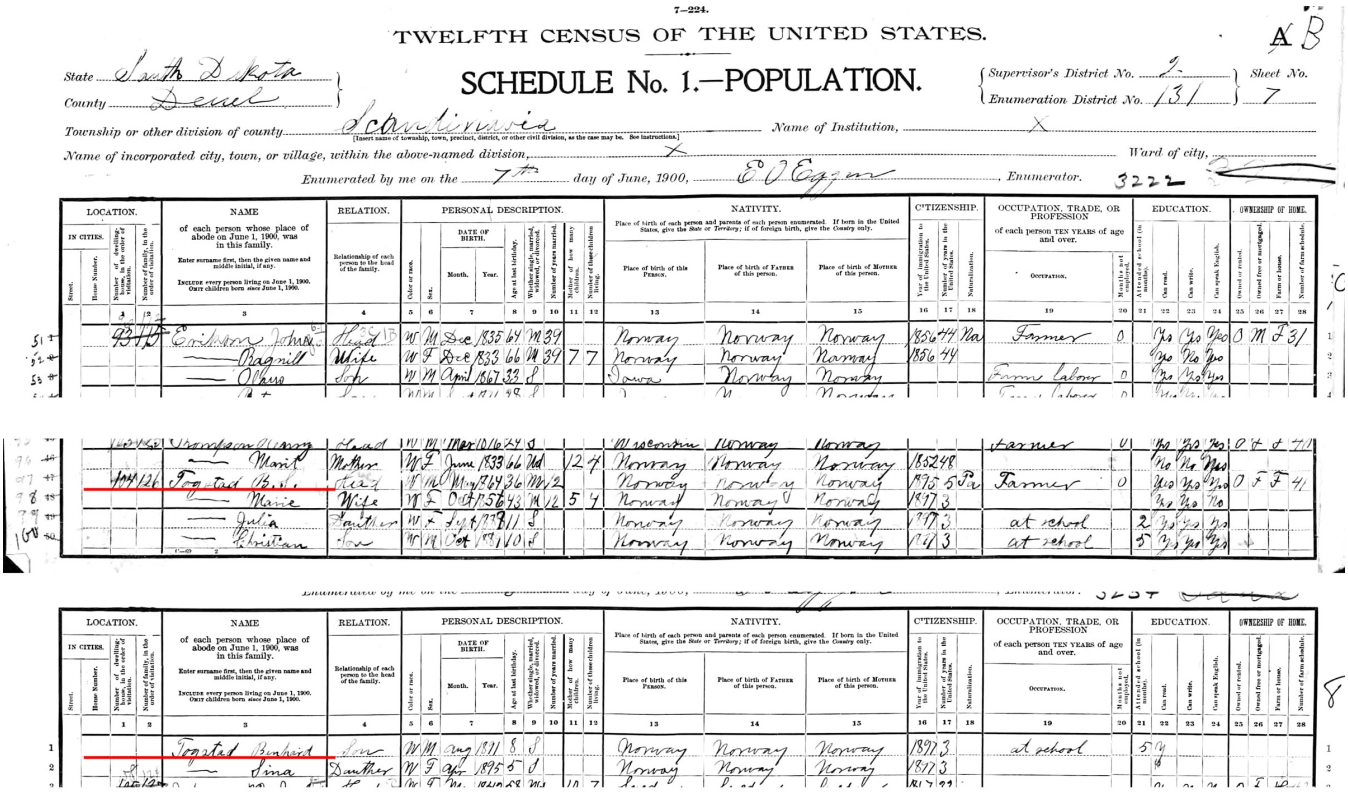
Aar 1888 — A. Levende — Fødte. — Aar 38

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
No.	Fødsels-Datum.	Daabsdatum (ogsaa for Hjemmedøbte).	For Hjemmedøbte: Daabs-Stadfæstelses Datum.	Barnets fulde Navn.	Forældrenes fulde Navne og borgerlige Stilling. (Nøiagtigvæt)	Forældrenes Bopæl.	Forældrenes Fødselsaar. Faderens	Moderens	Fadderens Navne og borgerlige Stilling.	Om ægte eller uægte født.	Anmærkninger (saasom: a) Tilfælde af Hjemmedaab, hvem der har forrettet samme, med Tilføielse af to Daabsvidnets Navne, og b) ved uægtefødte Børn Anmelderens Navn m.V.)
6	Sept. 1887 6.	April 8.		Christian	Gaardbr. Berndt Aug. Togstad Simonsen, Marie Christiansdr. Hr. Gj. 3½ Aar	Gaarden Qe	1854	1854	Hans Ol. Olsen Togstad-Gj. Thea Hansen Mortensen Togstad-Gj. Anna Mortensdr. Gaarden Hr. Stangs Mester.	Gl.	

Figure 87

1900 Census of the Togstad Family

Bernt, Marie, Julia, Christian, Bernhard, and Sina were living in Scandinavia Township, Deuel Count, South Dakota. Bernt had applied to be naturalized and was a farmer owning his own farm. Marie could read and write but not speak English. Julia, Christian, and Bernhard were all school and could read/write. Sina was 5.



7–224.

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

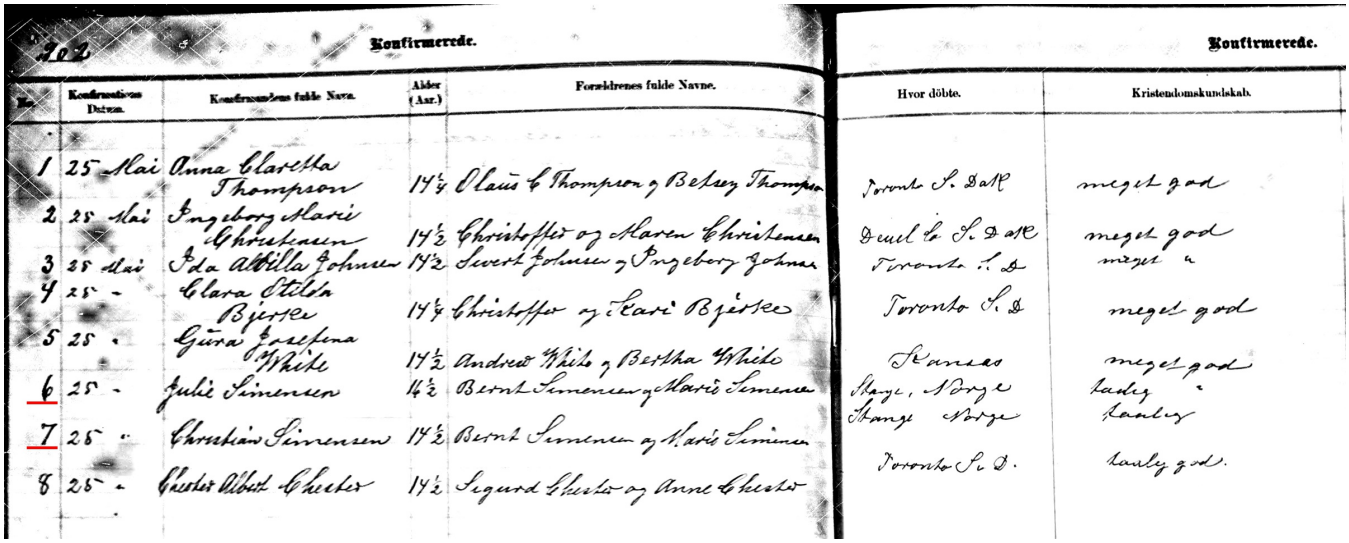
State South Dakota
County Deuel
Township or other division of county Scandinavia
Name of Institution, X
Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, X
Ward of city,
Enumerated by me on the 7th day of June, 1900, E. J. Eggen, Enumerator.
Supervisor's District No. 2
Enumeration District No. 131
Sheet No. 7

LOCATION. Street.	House Number.	Number of dwelling, in the order of visitation.	Number of family, in the order of visitation.	NAME of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on June 1, 1900. Omit children born since June 1, 1900.	RELATION. Relationship of each person to the head of the family.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION. Color or race.	Sex.	DATE OF BIRTH. Month.	Year.	Age at last birthday.	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced.	Number of years married.	Mother of how many children.	Number of those children living.	NATIVITY. Place of birth of this Person.	Place of birth of Father of this person.	Place of birth of Mother of this person.	CITIZENSHIP. Year of immigration to the United States.	Number of years in the United States.	Naturalization.	OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION of each person TEN YEARS of age and over. Occupation.	Months not employed.	EDUCATION. Attended school (in months).	Can read.	Can write.	Can speak English.	OWNERSHIP OF HOME. Owned or rented.	Owned free or mortgaged.	Farm or house.	Number of farm schedule.
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	93	113		Christian Johnson	Head	W	M	Dec	1835	64	M	39			Norway	Norway	Norway	1856	44	Na	Farmer	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	O	M	F	31
				Ragnill	Wife	W	F	Dec	1833	66	M	39	7	7	Norway	Norway	Norway	1856	44				Yes	Yes	Yes				
				Olaus	Son	W	M	April	1867	32	S				Iowa	Norway	Norway				Farm Labor	0	Yes	Yes	Yes				
	94	114		Togstad Bernt	Head	W	M	May	1864	36	M	12			Wisconsin	Norway	Norway	1885	15	Pa	Farmer	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	O	F	F	41
				Marie	Wife	W	F	Oct	1856	43	M	12	5	4	Norway	Norway	Norway	1897	3				Yes	Yes	No				
				Julia	Daughter	W	F	Sept	1887	12	S				Norway	Norway	Norway	1897	3		at school		2	Yes	Yes	Yes				
				Christian	Son	W	M	Oct	1889	10	S				Norway	Norway	Norway	1897	3		at school		5	Yes	Yes	Yes				
				Togstad Bernhard	Son	W	M	Aug	1891	8	S				Norway	Norway	Norway	1897	3		at school		5	Yes						
				Sina	Daughter	W	F	Apr	1895	5	S				Norway	Norway	Norway	1897	3											

Figure 88

Confirmation - Julia and Christian Simensen (Togstad)

They were both confirmed 25 May 1902, at Leganger Lutheran Church, Toronto, South Dakota.

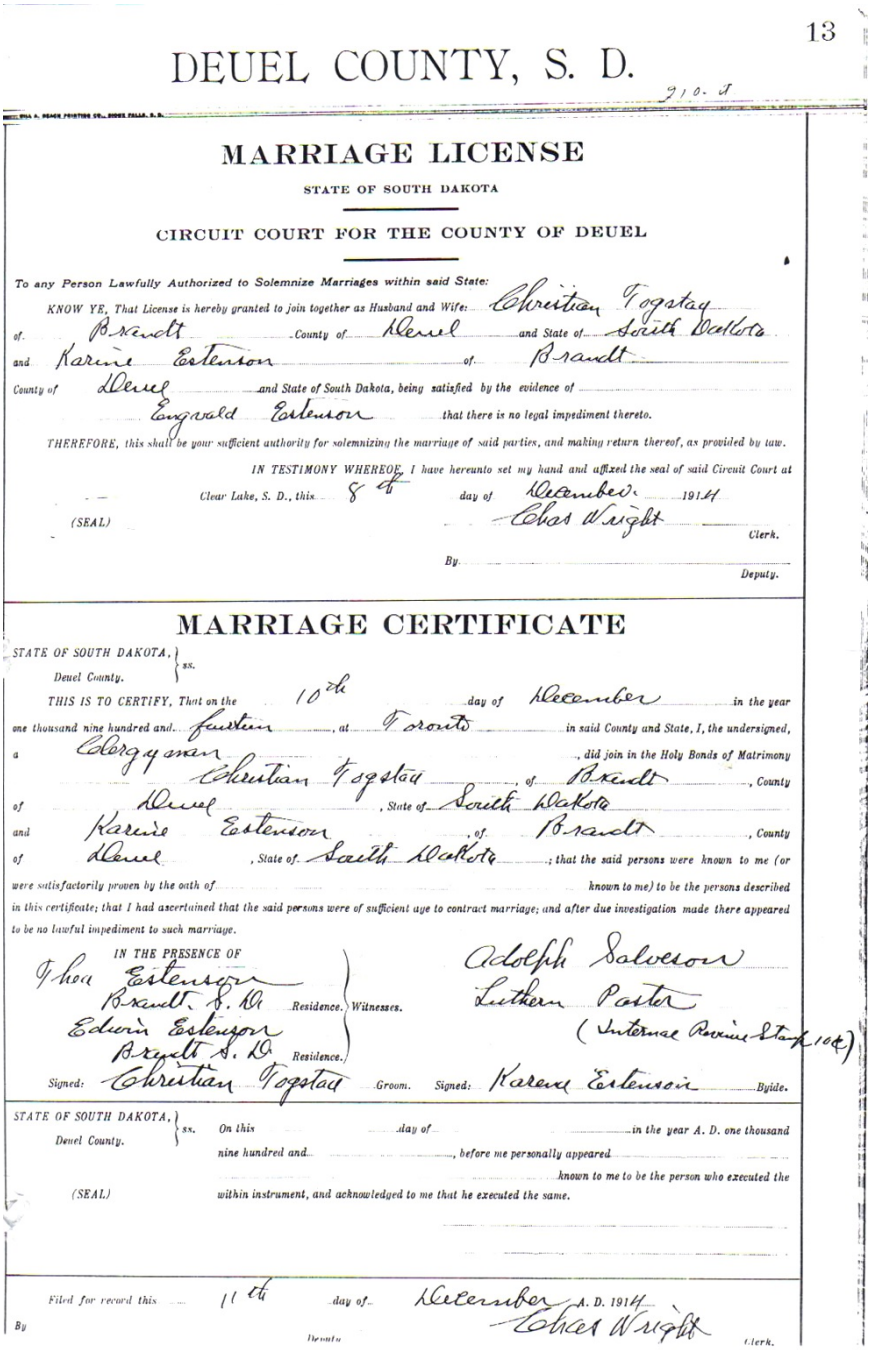


Nr.	Konfirmationen Datum.	Konfirmandens fulde Navn.	Alder (Aar.)	Forældrenes fulde Navne.	Hvor döbte.	Kristendomskundskab.
1	25 Mai	Anna Claretta Thompson	14½	Claus & Thompson g Betsey Thompson	Toronto S. Dak	meget god
2	25 Mai	Sngeborg Marie Christensen	14½	Christoffer og Maren Christensen	Dell & S. Dak	meget god
3	25 Mai	Ida Attilla Johnsen	14½	Sivert Johnsen g Sngeborg Johnsen	Toronto S. D.	meget "
4	25 "	Clara Stiles Bjerke	14½	Christoffer og Clara Bjerke	Toronto S. D.	meget god
5	25 "	Gura Josefina White	14½	Andrew White g Bertha White	Kansas	meget god
6	25 "	Julie Simensen	14½	Bernt Simensen g Maria Simensen	Stange, Norge	tadelig "
7	25 "	Christian Simensen	14½	Bernt Simensen og Maria Simensen	Stange Norge	taadelig
8	25 "	Chester Albert Chester	14½	Sigurd Chester og Anne Chester	Toronto S. D.	taalig god.

Figure 89

Marriage Certificate - Christian Togstad and Carrie Estensen

Married 10 Dec 1914 in Toronto, South Dakota



13

DEUEL COUNTY, S. D.

1914

MARRIAGE LICENSE

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF DEUEL

To any Person Lawfully Authorized to Solemnize Marriages within said State:

KNOW YE, That License is hereby granted to join together as Husband and Wife: Christian Togstad of Brandt County of Deuel and State of South Dakota and Karine Estenson of Brandt County of Deuel and State of South Dakota, being satisfied by the evidence of Engvald Estenson that there is no legal impediment thereto.

THEREFORE, this shall be your sufficient authority for solemnizing the marriage of said parties, and making return thereof, as provided by law.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Circuit Court at Clear Lake, S. D., this 8th day of December 1914

(SEAL) Chas Wright Clerk.

By Deputy.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, } ss.
Deuel County.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That on the 10th day of December in the year one thousand nine hundred and fourteen, at Toronto in said County and State, I, the undersigned, a Clergyman did join in the Holy Bonds of Matrimony Christian Togstad, of Brandt, County of Deuel, State of South Dakota and Karine Estenson, of Brandt, County of Deuel, State of South Dakota; that the said persons were known to me (or were satisfactorily proven by the oath of known to me) to be the persons described in this certificate; that I had ascertained that the said persons were of sufficient age to contract marriage; and after due investigation made there appeared to be no lawful impediment to such marriage.

IN THE PRESENCE OF

Thea Estenson, Brandt S. D. Residence. } Witnesses.
Edwin Estenson, Brandt S. D. Residence.

Adolph Salveson
Luthern Pastor
(Internal Revenue Stamp 10¢)

Signed: Christian Togstad Groom. Signed: Karene Estenson Bride.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, } ss.
Deuel County.

On this day of in the year A. D. one thousand nine hundred and, before me personally appeared known to me to be the person who executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same.

(SEAL)

Filed for record this 11th day of December A. D. 1914

By Deputy. Chas Wright Clerk.

Figure 90

Bernhard "Bennie" Berntsen Togstad

Birth/Baptism Record - Bernhard Berntsen Togstad

Born 25 Mar 1890. Baptized 15 Jun 1890, Nes, Hedmark. Father Bernt August Simensen. Mother Marie Christiansdatter residing at Sandvoldeier.

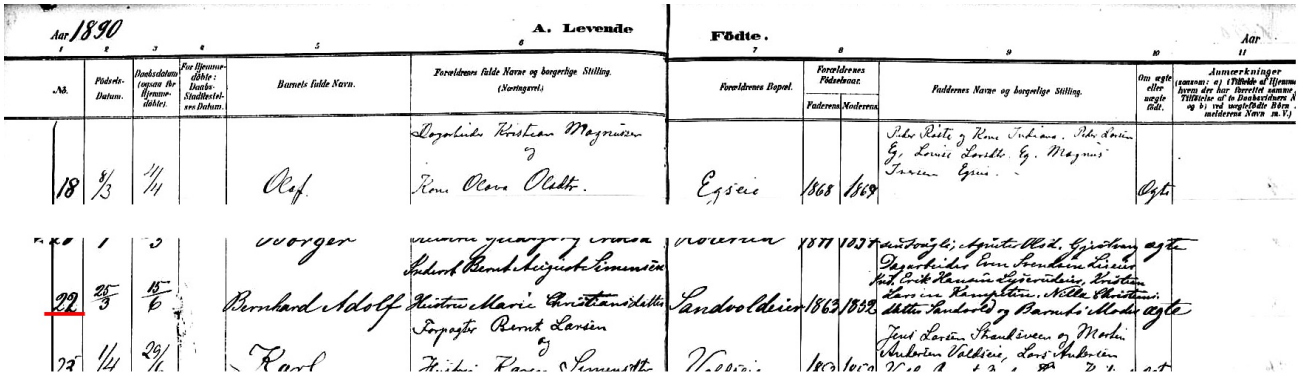
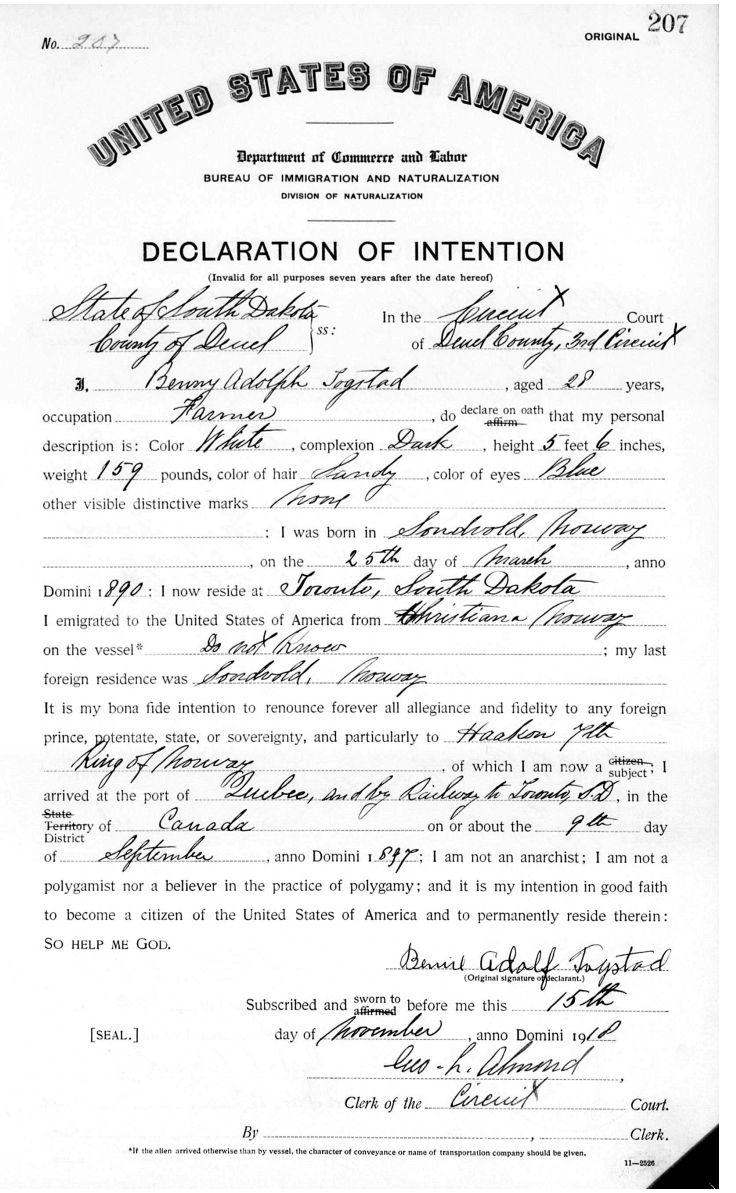


Figure 91

Declaration of Intention - Bernhard Togstad

Signed 15 Nov 1918, Deuel County 3rd Circuit Court, South Dakota. Born 25 Mar 1890, age 28, Sondvold, Norway. Farmer, 5' 6", dark complexion, sandy hair, blue eyes. Resides in Toronto, South Dakota. Arrived at the port of Quebec and then by railway to Toronto, South Dakota on 9 Sep 1897.



No. 207 ORIGINAL

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Department of Commerce and Labor
BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION
DIVISION OF NATURALIZATION

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

(Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

State of South Dakota, County of Deuel } ss: In the Circuit Court of Deuel County, 3rd Circuit

I, Benny Adolph Togstad, aged 28 years, occupation Farmer, do declare on oath ~~affirm~~ that my personal description is: Color White, complexion Dark, height 5 feet 6 inches, weight 159 pounds, color of hair Sandy, color of eyes Blue other visible distinctive marks None; I was born in Sondvold, Norway, on the 25th day of March, anno Domini 1890; I now reside at Toronto, South Dakota I emigrated to the United States of America from ~~Christiana~~ Norway on the vessel* Do not know; my last foreign residence was Sondvold, Norway

It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to Haakon 7th King of Norway, of which I am now a ~~citizen~~ subject; I arrived at the port of Quebec, and by Railway to Toronto S.D., in the ~~State~~ Territory ~~District~~ of Canada on or about the 9th day of September, anno Domini 1897; I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein: SO HELP ME GOD.

Benny Adolf Togstad
(Original signature of declarant.)

Subscribed and ~~affirmed~~ sworn to before me this 15th day of November, anno Domini 1918

[SEAL.]

Geo. L. Ammond
Clerk of the Circuit Court.

By ____, Clerk.

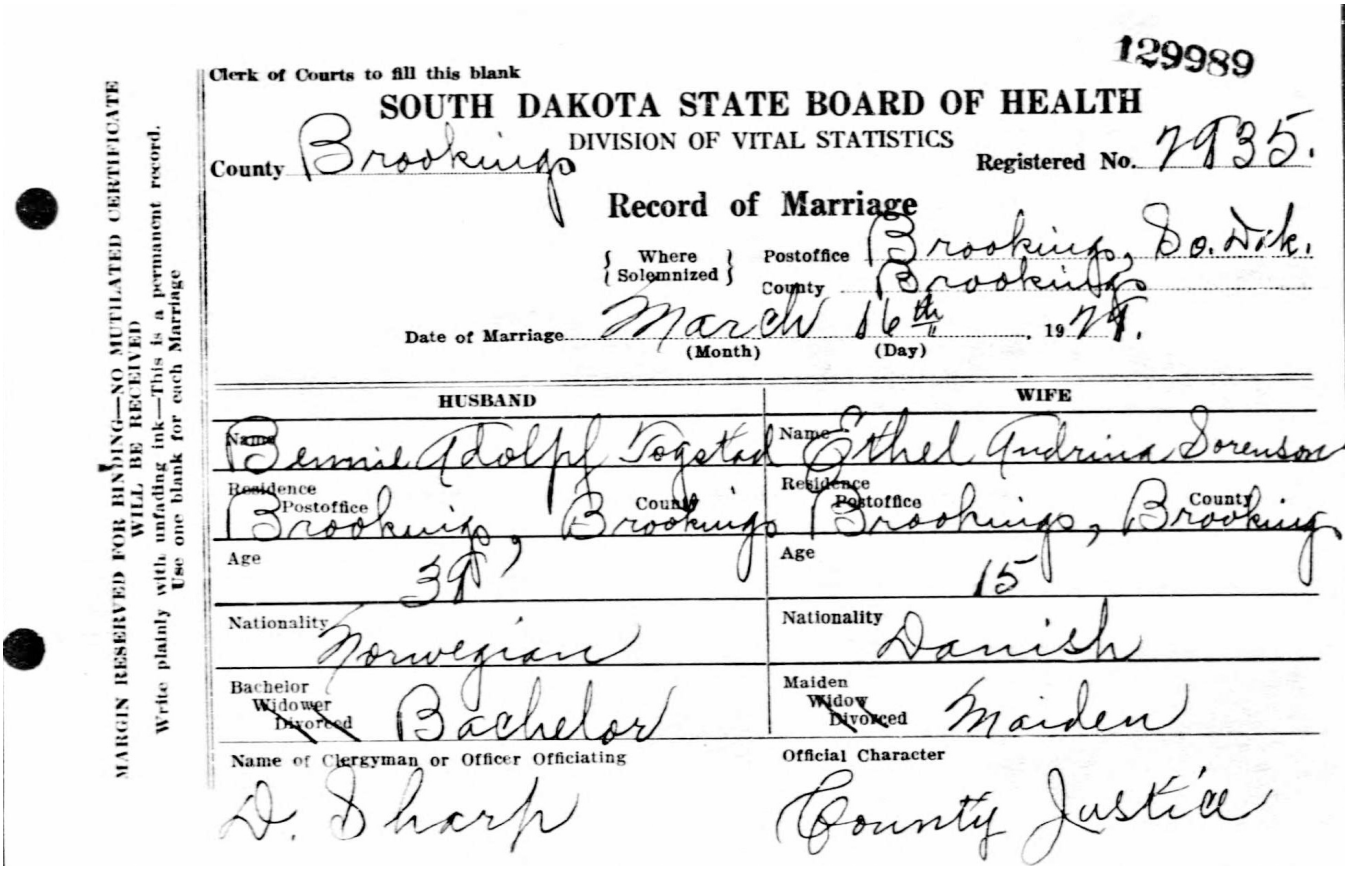
*If the alien arrived otherwise than by vessel, the character of conveyance or name of transportation company should be given.

11—2026

Figure 92

Bennie Togstad and Ethel Sorenson Marriage Record

16 Mar 1929, Brookings, South Dakota



129989

Clerk of Courts to fill this blank

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS

County Brookings Registered No. 7935.

Record of Marriage

{ Where Solemnized } Postoffice Brookings, So. Dak.

County Brookings Co.

Date of Marriage March 16th 1929.
(Month) (Day)

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING—NO MUTILATED CERTIFICATE WILL BE RECEIVED
Write plainly with unfading ink—This is a permanent record.
Use one blank for each Marriage

HUSBAND	WIFE
Name Bennie Adolph Togstad	Name Ethel Gudrina Sorenson
Residence Postoffice Brookings County Brookings	Residence Postoffice Brookings, County Brookings
Age 39	Age 15
Nationality Norwegian	Nationality Danish
Bachelor Widower Divorced	Maiden Widow Divorced
Name of Clergyman or Officer Officiating D. D. Sharp	Official Character County Justice

Figure 93

Maren Emilie Birth/Baptism Record

Born 21 Mar 1892. Baptized 15 Apr 1892, Stange, Hedmark, Norway.
Father Bern Simensen, Mother Marie Kristiansdatter.

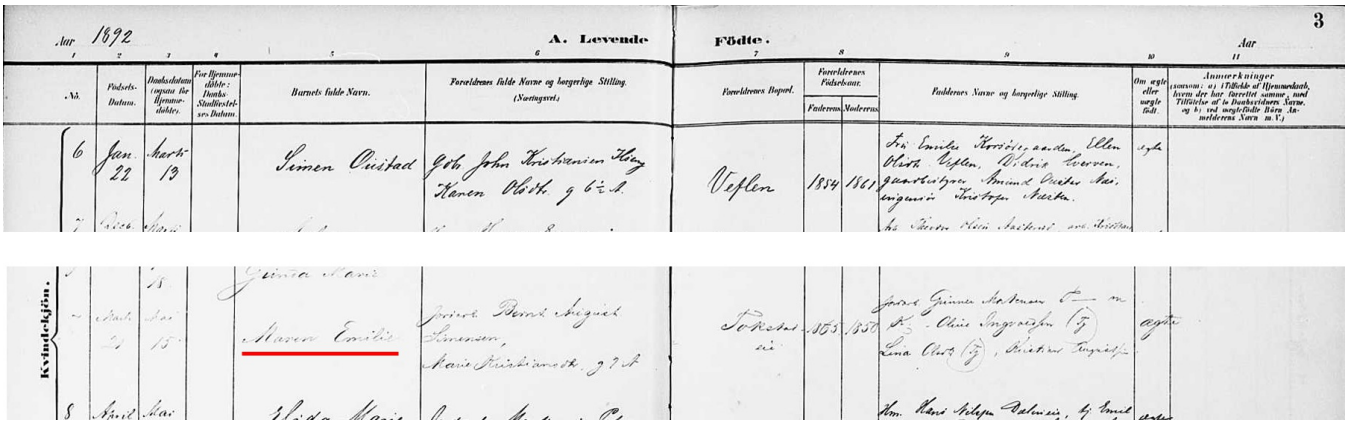


Figure 94

Maren Berntsdatter Death Record

Died 23 Mar 1893, Buried 1 Apr, Ceremony held on 3 Apr 1893. Born 21 Mar 1892 at Kaaterrudeie, resided at Tokstadeie, Ottestad. Father was Farmer, Bernt Simensen. Cause of Death: Pneumonia.

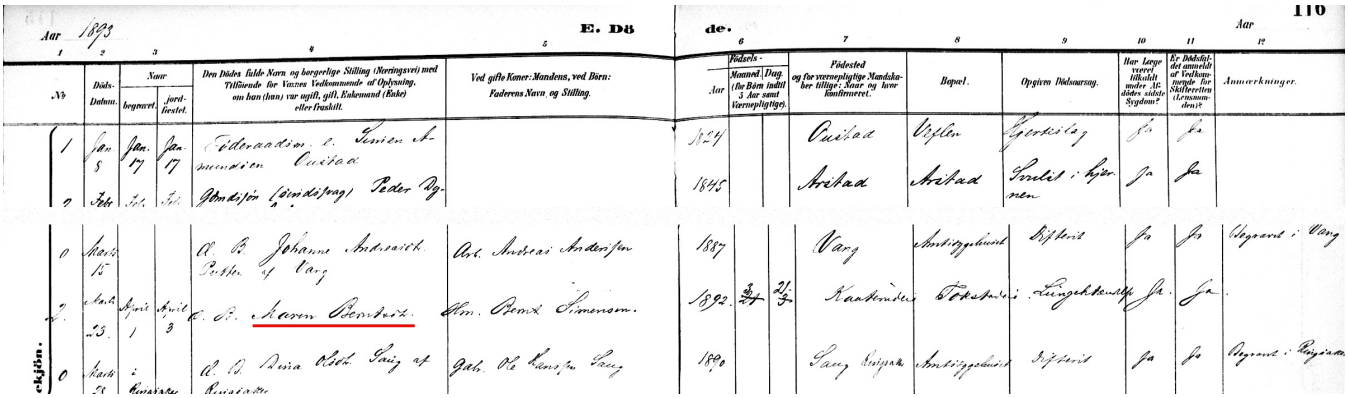


Figure 95

Sina Berntsdatter Togstad

Birth/Baptism Record - Sina Berntsdatter Togstad

Born 26 Apr 1894. Baptized 12 Aug 1894, Ottestad, Stange, Hedmark, Norway. Father day laborer, Bernt August Simensen residing at Tokstadeie. Mother Marie Kristiansdtr. residing at Tokstadeie.

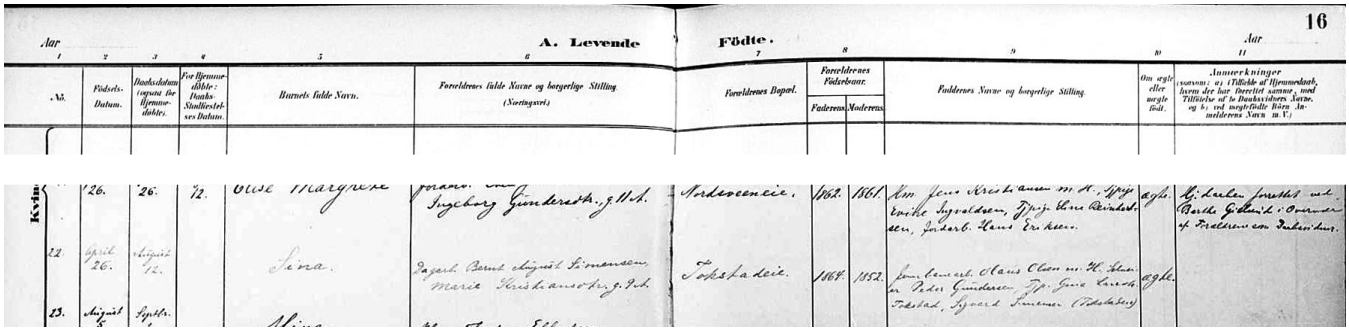
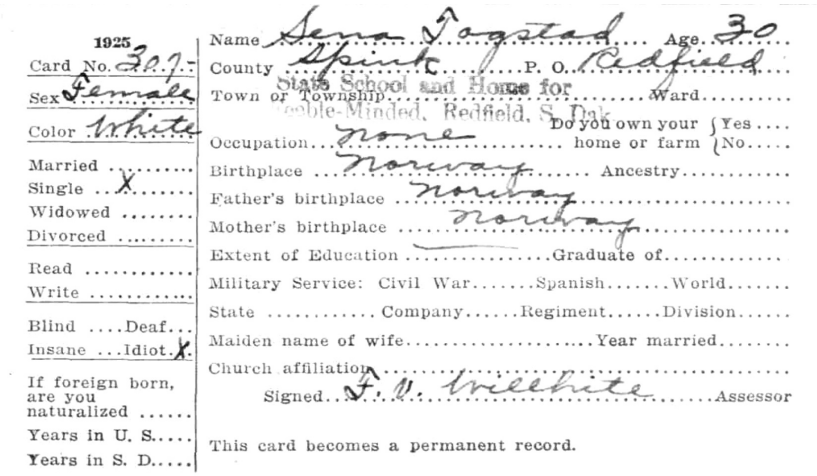


Figure 96

1925 South Dakota Census - Sina Togstad

Born 1895, age 30, In Norway. Resided at State School and Home for Feeble-Minded, Redfield, South Dakota. Marked "idiot", e.g. mentally incompetent.



1925
Card No. 207
Sex Female
Color White
Married .....
Single ..X.....
Widowed .....
Divorced .....
Read .....
Write .....
Blind ....Deaf...
Insane ...Idiot..X.
If foreign born, are you naturalized .....
Years in U. S.....
Years in S. D.....

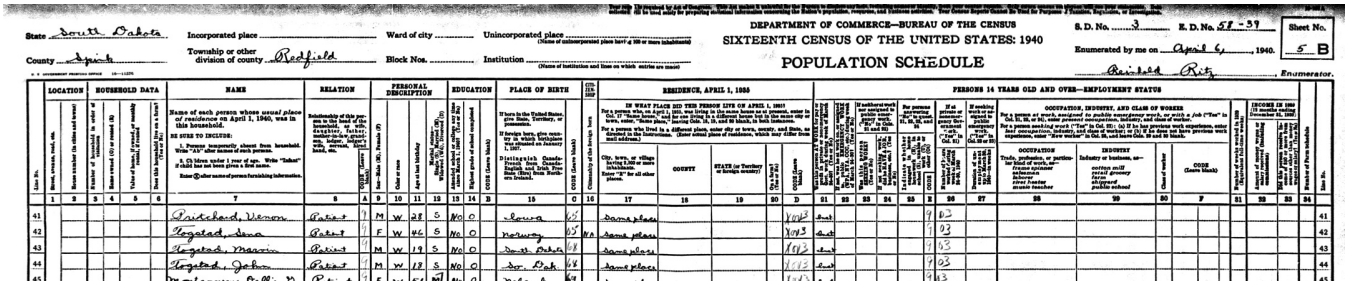
Name Sena Togstad Age. 30
County Spink P. O. Redfield
Town or Township ..... Ward.....
State School and Home for Feeble-Minded, Redfield, S. Dak.
Occupation... none Do you own your home or farm { Yes .... No.....
Birthplace ... Norway Ancestry.....
Father's birthplace ... Norway
Mother's birthplace ... Norway
Extent of Education .....Graduate of.....
Military Service: Civil War.....Spanish.....World.....
State ..... Company.....Regiment.....Division.....
Maiden name of wife.....Year married.....
Church affiliation.....
Signed.. F. V. Wellhite .....Assessor

This card becomes a permanent record.

Figure 97

1940 Census - Sina Togstad and Sons

Census date was 6 Apr 1940. Sina was born 1894, age 46, in Norway. A patient at Redfield Hospital, Spink County, South Dakota. Highest grade completed: none. Marvin was born 1921, age 19. John was born 1922, age 18. Both were in Redfield and neither had completed any schooling.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940
POPULATION SCHEDULE

State South Dakota — Incorporated place — Ward of city — Unincorporated place
County Spink — Township or other division of county Redfield — Block No. — Institution

E. D. No. 58-39 — Sheet No. 5 B
Enumerated by me on April 6, 1940. — Reinhold Ritz, Enumerator.

Line No.	LOCATION: Street, avenue, road, etc.	LOCATION: House number (in cities and towns)	HOUSEHOLD DATA: Number of household in order of visitation	HOUSEHOLD DATA: Home owned (O) or rented (R)	HOUSEHOLD DATA: Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental, if rented	HOUSEHOLD DATA: Does this household have a radio set?	NAME: Name of each person whose usual place of residence on April 1, 1940, was in this household. (Enter surname first, then given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on April 1, 1940. Omit servants who live in this household on April 1, 1940, but who have their own usual place of residence elsewhere.)	RELATION: Relationship of this person to the head of the household, as: wife, son, daughter, lodger, lodger's wife, servant, lodger's child, etc.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Sex (Male (M), Female (F))	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Color or race	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Age at last birthday	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: Married, single, widowed, divorced, or annulled	EDUCATION: Highest school grade completed	EDUCATION: Attended school or college any time since March 1, 1940 (Yes or No)	PLACE OF BIRTH: If born in the United States, give State, Territory, or possession. If foreign born, give country in which birthplace was reported on January 1, 1937. Distinguish Canada—French, Canada—English, and Irish Free State (Eire) from British dominions.	CITIZENSHIP: Citizenship of the foreign born	RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1935: IN WHAT PLACE DID THIS PERSON LIVE ON APRIL 1, 1935? (Not to be confused with place of birth.) For a person who lived in a different place, enter city or town, county, and State, as directed in the instructions. (Enter actual place of residence, which may differ from mail address.) City, town, or village (Enter "R" for all other places.)	RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1935: COUNTY	RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1935: STATE (or Territory or foreign country)	RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1935: Was a house (Yes or No)	RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1935: Farm (Yes or No)	PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER—EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Was this person at work for pay or profit during the week of March 24–30? (Or was he assigned to public emergency work?)	PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER—EMPLOYMENT STATUS: If not at work, was he seeking work or on layoff?	PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER—EMPLOYMENT STATUS: If seeking work or on layoff, for how many weeks?	PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER—EMPLOYMENT STATUS: OCCUPATION, INDUSTRY, AND CLASS OF WORKER	PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER—EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Class of worker	INCOME IN 1939	Number of weeks worked in 1939	Amount earned in 1939	Number of Farm schedule	Line No.
1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	C	16	17	18	19	20	D	21	22	23	24	25	E	26	27	28	F	31	32	33	34	
41							Partchard, Vernon	Patient	M	W	28	S	No	O	Iowa	U.S.		same place				1935	Yes					1	03							41
42							Togstad, Sina	Patient	F	W	46	S	No	O	Norway	U.S.	NA	same place				1935	Yes					1	03							42
43							Togstad, Marvin	Patient	M	W	19	S	No	O	So. Dak.	U.S.		same place				1935	Yes					1	03							43
44							Togstad, John	Patient	M	W	18	S	No	O	So. Dak.	U.S.		same place				1935	Yes					1	03							44

Figure 98

Mathias Andersen

Birth/Baptism Record - Mathias Andersen

Born 4 Aug 1848, baptized 19 Nov 1849, Nes, Hedmark, Norway. Parents Mathias Andersen and Berte Olsdatter of Mengshoeleie.

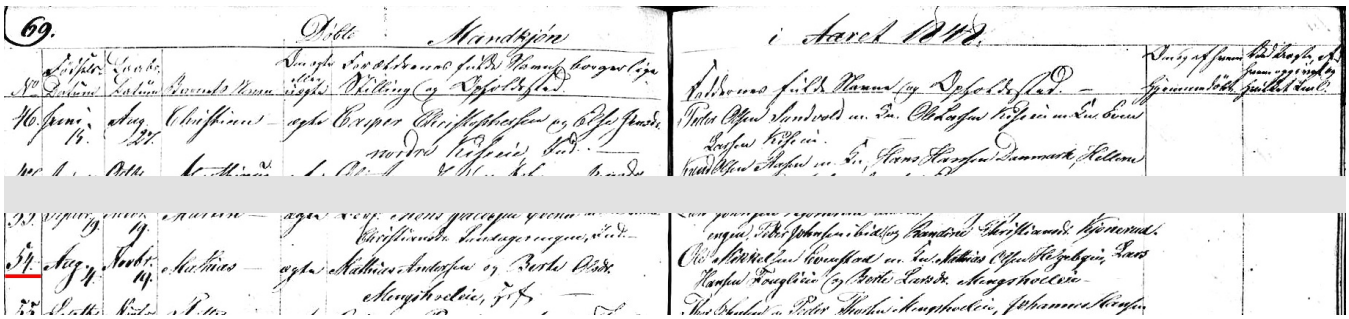


Figure 99

Marriage Record - Mathias Andersen and Maria Johannesdatter

Married 5 Jan 1876, Nes, Hedmark, Norway. Mathias was born 1849 in Mengshoeleier. His father was Anders Nielsen. Maria was born 1853 in Tossunner and resided in Mangstad. Her father was Johannes Pedersen.

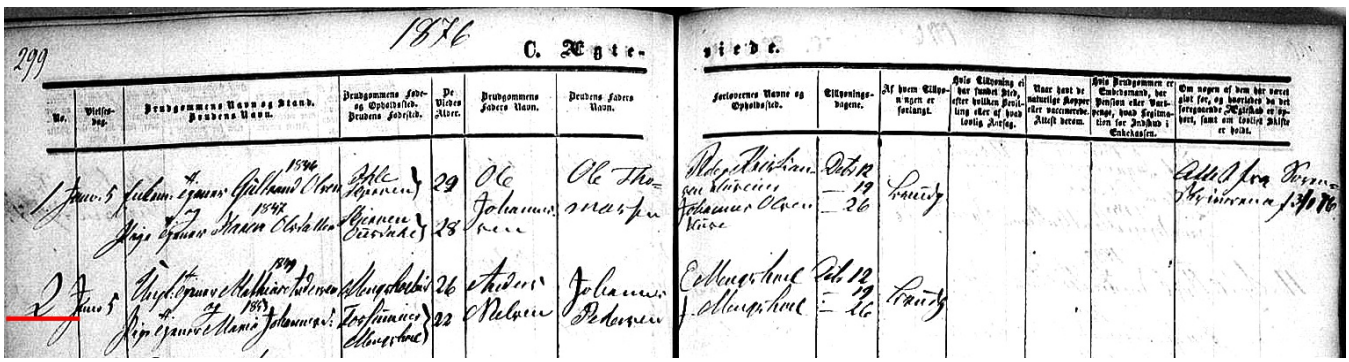
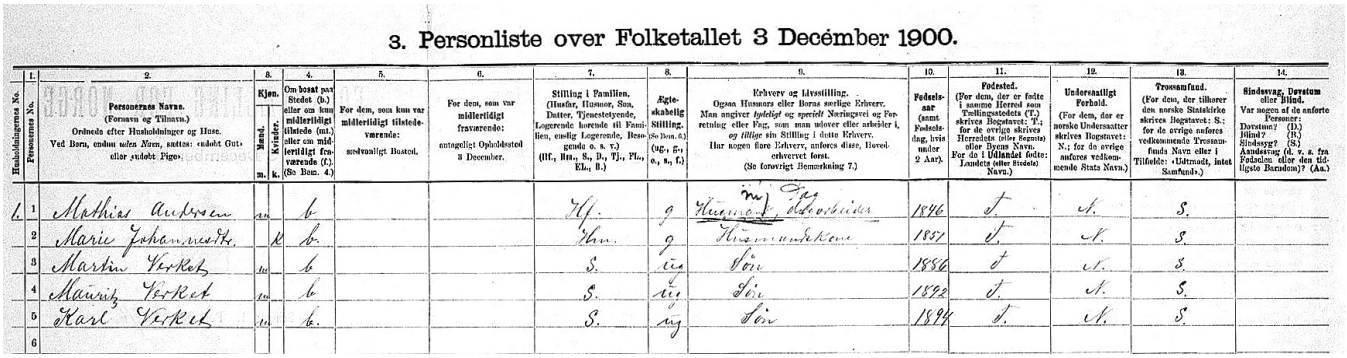


Figure 100

1900 Census - Mathias Andersen Family

Mathias, Marie, Martin, Mauritz, and Karl resided at Mengsholværket, the "works"/operations at the Mengshol farm. Mathias lived as a cotter with a small piece of land, and also worked as a day laborer to earn additional income. They all were born in Nes.



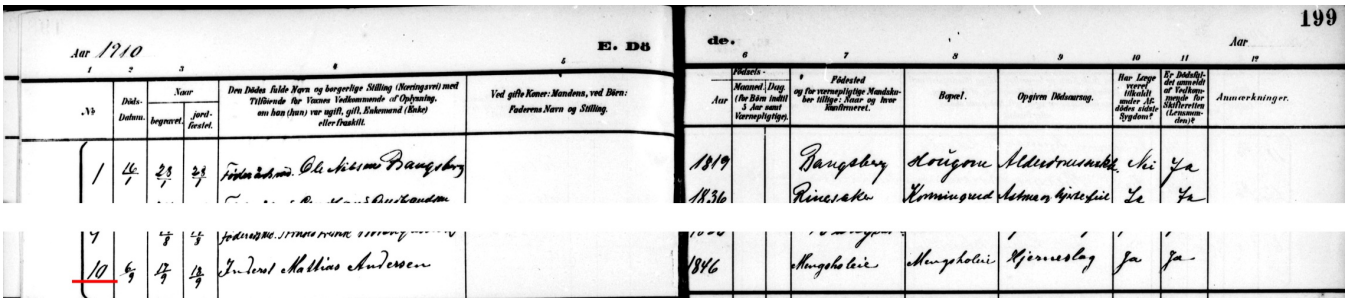
3. Personliste over Folketallet 3 Decémber 1900.

Husholdningens No.	Personernes No.	2. Personernes Navn. (Fornavn og Tilnavn.) Ordnede efter Husholdninger og Huse. Ved Born, endnu uden Navn, sættes: endnu Gut- eller endnu Pige.	3. Kjøn. Mænd. m.	Kvinder. k.	4. Om bosat paa Stedet (b.) eller om kun midlertidigt tilstede (mt.) eller om midlertidigt fraværende (f.) (Se Bem. 4)	5. For dem, som kun var midlertidigt tilstedeværende: antageligt Opholdssted.	6. For dem, som var midlertidigt fraværende: antageligt Opholdssted 3 December.	7. Stilling i Familien. (Husfar, Husmor, Søn, Datter, Tjenestetyende, Logerende hørende til Familien, enslig Logerende, Besøgende o. s. v.) (Hf., Hm., S., D., Tj., Fl., El., B.)	8. Ægteskabelig Stilling. (Se Bem. 6.) (ug., g., e., s., f.)	9. Erhverv og Livsstilling. Ogsaa Husmors eller Børns særlige Erhverv. Man angiver *tydeligt* og *specielt* Næringsvei og Forretning eller Fag, som man nyder eller arbeider i, og *tillige* sin Stilling i dette Erhverv. Har nogen flere Erhverv, anføres disse, Hovederhvervet først. (Se forøvrigt Bemærkning 7.)	10. Fødselsaar (samt Fødselsdag, hvis under 2 Aar).	11. Fødested. (For dem, der er fødte i samme Herred som Tællingsstedets (T.) skrives Bogstavet: T.; for de øvrige skrives Herredets (eller Sognets) eller Byens Navn. For de i Udlandet fødte: Landets (eller Stedets) Navn.)	12. Undersaatlig Forhold. (For dem, der er norske Undersaatter skrives Bogstavet: N.; for de øvrige anføres vedkommende Stats Navn.)	13. Trossamfund. (For dem, der tilhører den norske Statskirke skrives Bogstavet: S.; for de øvrige anføres vedkommende Trossamfunds Navn eller i Tilfælde: «Uitmedl, intet Samfund».)	14. Sindssvag, Døvstum eller Blind. Var nogen af de anførte Personer: Døvstum? (D.) Blind? (B.) Sindssyg? (S.) Aandssvag (Idiot) (A. v. s. fra Fødselen eller den tidligste Barndom)? (Aa.)
1.	1	Mathias Andersen	m.		b.			Hf.	g.	Husmand Skovbruder	1846	T.	N.	S.	
	2	Marie Johannesdtr.		k.	b.			Hm.	g.	Husmandskone	1851	T.	N.	S.	
	3	Martin Verket	m.		b.			S.	ug.	Søn	1886	T.	N.	S.	
	4	Mauritz Verket	m.		b.			S.	ug.	Søn	1892	T.	N.	S.	
	5	Karl Verket	m.		b.			S.	ug.	Søn	1894	T.	N.	S.	
	6														

Figure 101

Death - Mathias Andersen

Died 6 Sep 1910, buried 17 Sep 1910 at Stavsjø church, Nes, Hedmark, Norway. Born 1846 in Mengsholeie.



E. D8

Aar 1910

199

№	Dødsdatum.	Født. begravet.	Født. jordfæstet.	Den Dødes fulde Navn og borgerlige Stilling (Næringsvei) med Tilføiende for Gaardbrugere og Enker af Ophavsmandens Navn, om han (hun) var ugift, gift, Enkemand (Enke) eller fraskilt.	Ved gifte Koner: Mandens, ved Børn: Forældres Navn og Stilling.	Aar	Maaned (for Børn indtil 3 Aar)	Dag (for Børn indtil 3 Aar)	Fødested og for værnepligtige Mandskaber tillige Amt og hvor hjemmehørende.	Bopæl.	Opgivet Dødsaarsag.	Har Lægen været tilkaldt under Aarsdødens sidste Sygdom?	Er Dødsfaldet blevet anmeldt af Vedkommende for Skifteretten (Lensmanden)?	Anmærkninger.
1	14/1	23/1	24/1	Enke efter Chr. Christine Bangsberg		1819			Bangsberg	Kongsvn	Alderdomssvakhed	Nei	Ja	
						1836			Rinerike	Kongsvn	Aldersvakhet	Le	Ja	
10	6/9	17/9	18/9	Indsidder Mathias Andersen		1846			Mengsholeie	Mengsholeie	Hjernelag	Ja	Ja	

Figure 102

Peder Jensen / Peter J Lier

Birth/Baptism Record - Peder Jensen

Born 22 Dec 1856. Baptized 11 Jan 1857, Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway. His father was Jens Christiansen and his mother was Maria Torgersdatter, residing in Ambseie østre.

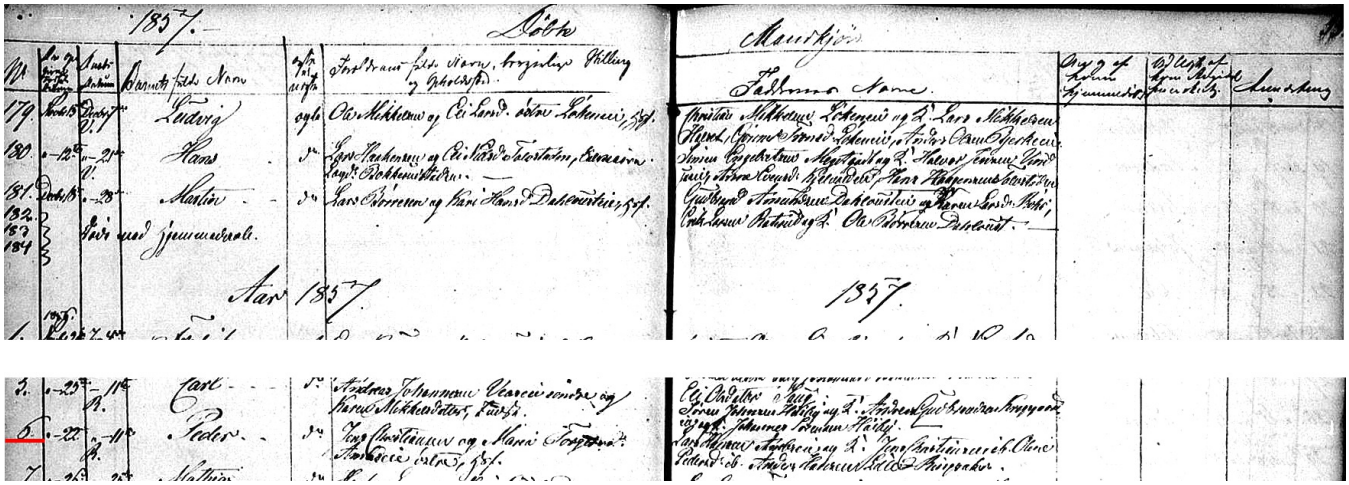


Figure 103

1865 Norway Census - Peder Jensen

Born 1856, age 10, in Ringsaker Parish. Residing at West Amb, Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway.

His occupation is listed as "Lægdslem". A lægdslem was a person who received support under the Norwegian poor relief system used in the 18th and 19th centuries. For Peder it could have meant he was an orphan, his parents couldn't support him, or the parish relocated him there. He would have lived and worked on the farm and was partially funded by the parish.

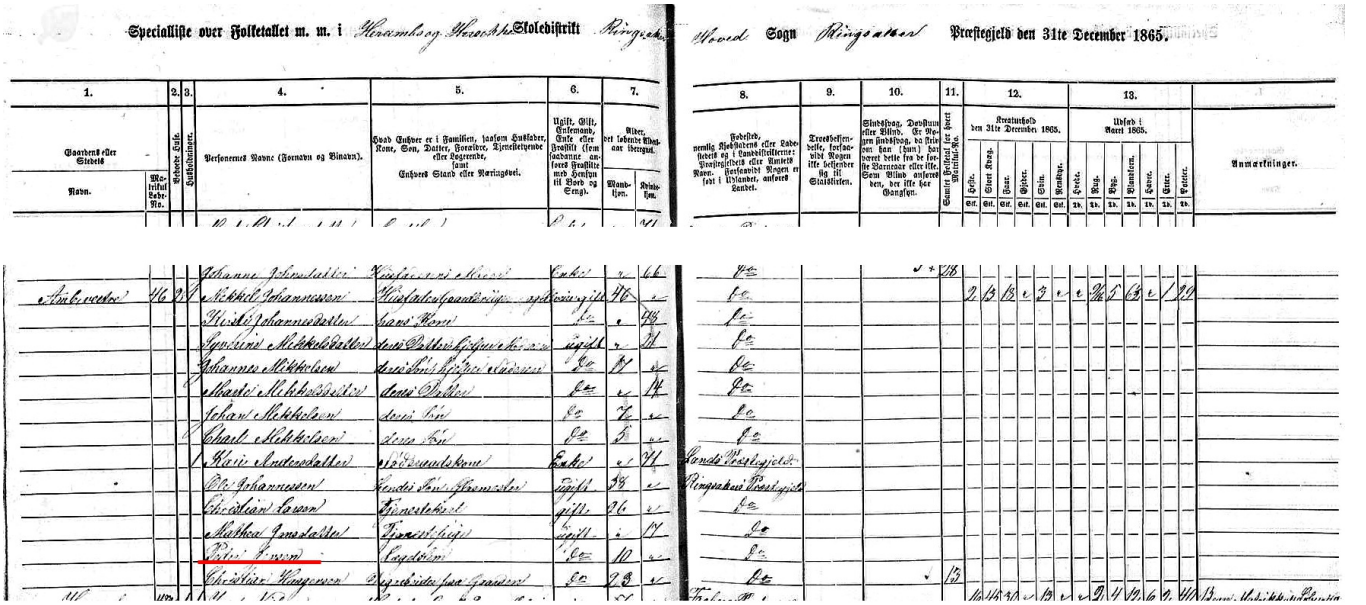
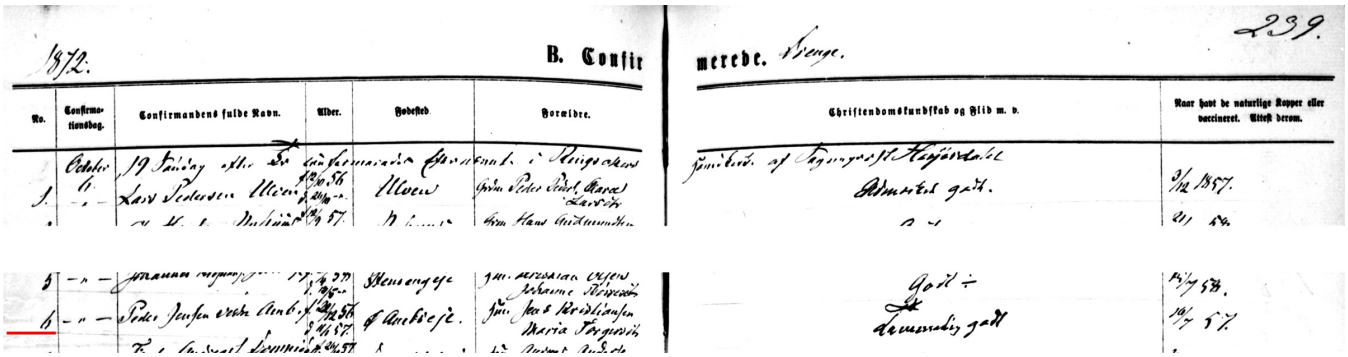


Figure 104

Confirmation - Peder Jensen

Confirmed 6 Oct 1872, Ringsaker Parish/Church. Born 22 Dec 1856 at Ø. Ambseje. Baptized 11 Jan 1857. Resided at West Amb farm. Grade: Quite Good.



1872. B. Confir

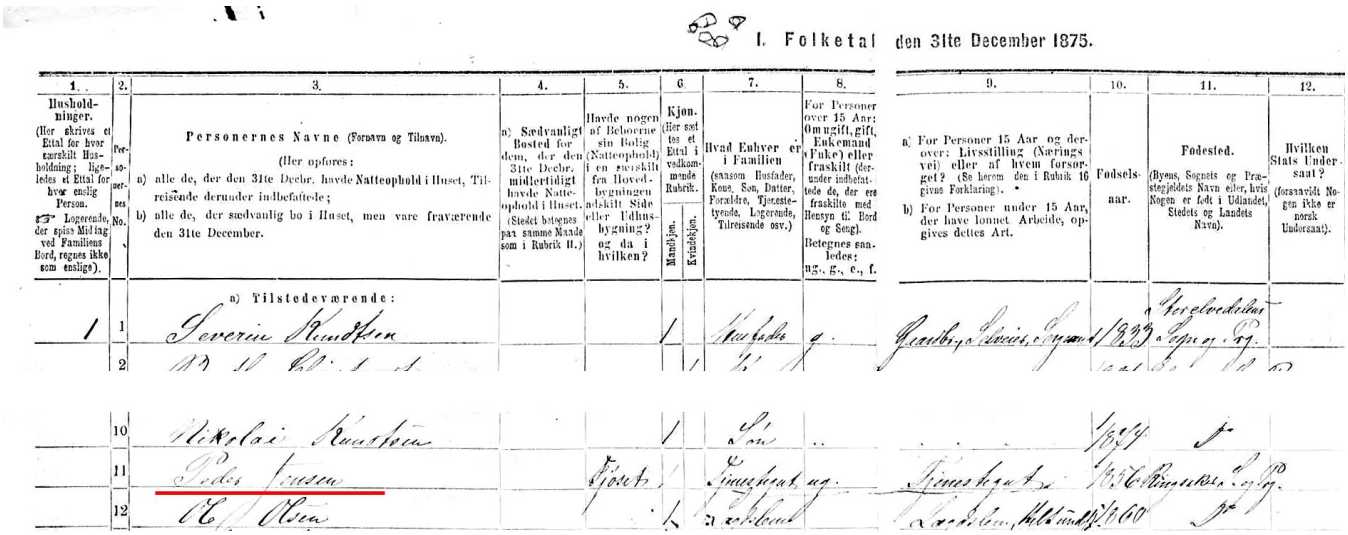
239.

No.	Confirmations-bog.	Confirmandens fulde Navn.	Alder.	Bosted.	Forældre.	Christendomskundskab og Flid m. v.	Naar først de naturlige Kopper eller vaccineret. Attest derom.
1.	Oktober 6	Lars Pedersen		Ulven			3/12 1857.
6	— " —	Peder Jensen		Ø. Ambsejé.		Gott.	13/7 57.

Figure 105

1875 Norway Census - Peder Jensen

Born 1856 (Age 19) in Ringsaker Parish. Resided at Børdal farm, Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway. Working as a farm servant.



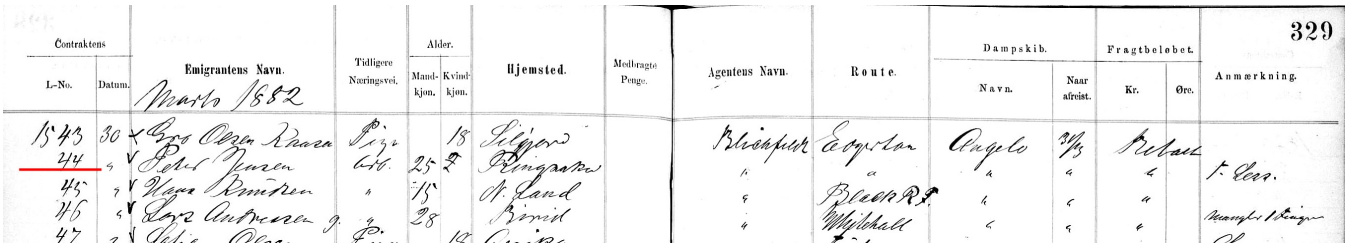
I. Folketal den 31te December 1875.

1. Husholdninger.	2. Personernes Nr.	3. Personernes Navne (Fornavn og Tilnavn).	4. Sædvanligt Bosted for dem, der den 31te Decbr. midlertidigt havde Natteophold i Huset.	5. Havde nogen af Beboerne sin Bolig (Natteophold) i en særskilt fra Hovedbygningen adskilt Side eller Udhusbygning? og da i hvilken?	6. Kjøn. Mandkjøn.	6. Kjøn. Kvindekjøn.	7. Hvad Enhver er i Familien (saasom Husfader, Kone, Søn, Datter, Forældre, Tjenestetyende, Logerende, Tilreisende osv.)	8. For Personer over 15 Aar: Ugift, gift, Enkemand (Enke) eller fraskilt (derunder indbefattede de, der ere fraskilte med Hensyn til Bord og Seng).	9. For Personer 15 Aar og derover: Livsstilling (Næringsvei) eller af hvem forsørget?	10. Fødselsaar.	11. Fødested.	12. Hvilken Stats Undersaat?
		a) Tilstedeværende:										
1	1	Severin Knudsen			1		Husfader	g.	Gaardbruger	1833	a Overlovedalen Hedm.	
	2											
	10	Nikolai Knudsen			1		Søn			1857	Ø	
	11	Peder Jensen		Gjest	1		Gjestegut ug.		Gjestegut	1856	Ringsaker Hedm.	
	12	[illegible]			1		[illegible]		[illegible]	1860	Ø	

Figure 106

Emigration Record - Peder Jensen

Emigrated 31 Mar 1882 from Oslo, Norway. Born 1857, age 25, last residence Ringsaker. Departing on the ship Angelo.

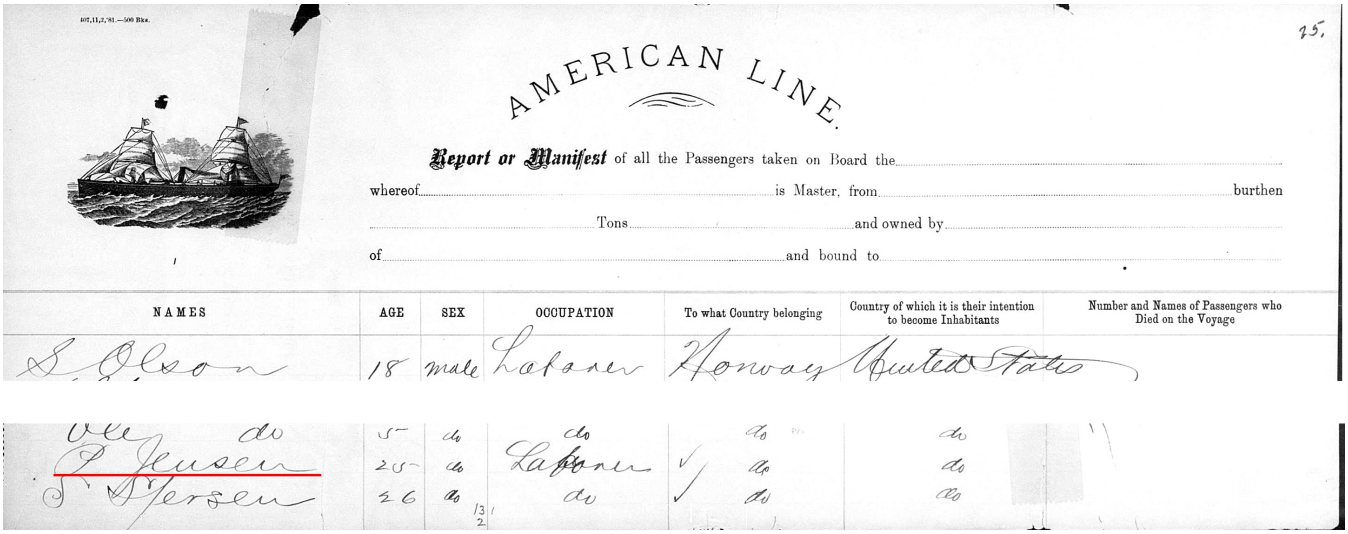


Contraktens L.-No.	Datum.	Emigrantens Navn.	Tidligere Næringsvei.	Alder. Mandkjøn.	Alder. Kvindkjøn.	Hjemsted.	Medbragte Penge.	Agentens Navn.	Route.	Dampskib. Navn.	Dampskib. Naar afreist.	Fragtbeløbet. Kr.	Fragtbeløbet. Øre.	329 Anmærkning.
1543	30	Ingo Olsen Knaen		18		Skjørn		Bjørnstjerne	Liverpool	Angelo	31/3	Betalt		
44	"	Peder Jensen	Gaa.	25	2	Ringsaker		"	"	"	"	"		t. Chas.
45	"	Hans Knudsen	"	15		N. Land		"	Bremen R.P.	"	"	"		
46	"	Lars Andersen	"	28		Eidsvold		"	Mjelkhall	"	"	"		Kampfer i Ringsaker
47	"	[illegible]	[illegible]		18	[illegible]								

Figure 107

Passenger List for SS Indiana

P Jensen, born 1857, age 25. Laborer, coming from Norway. Arrived on 17 Apr 1882 at port of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



AMERICAN LINE.

25.

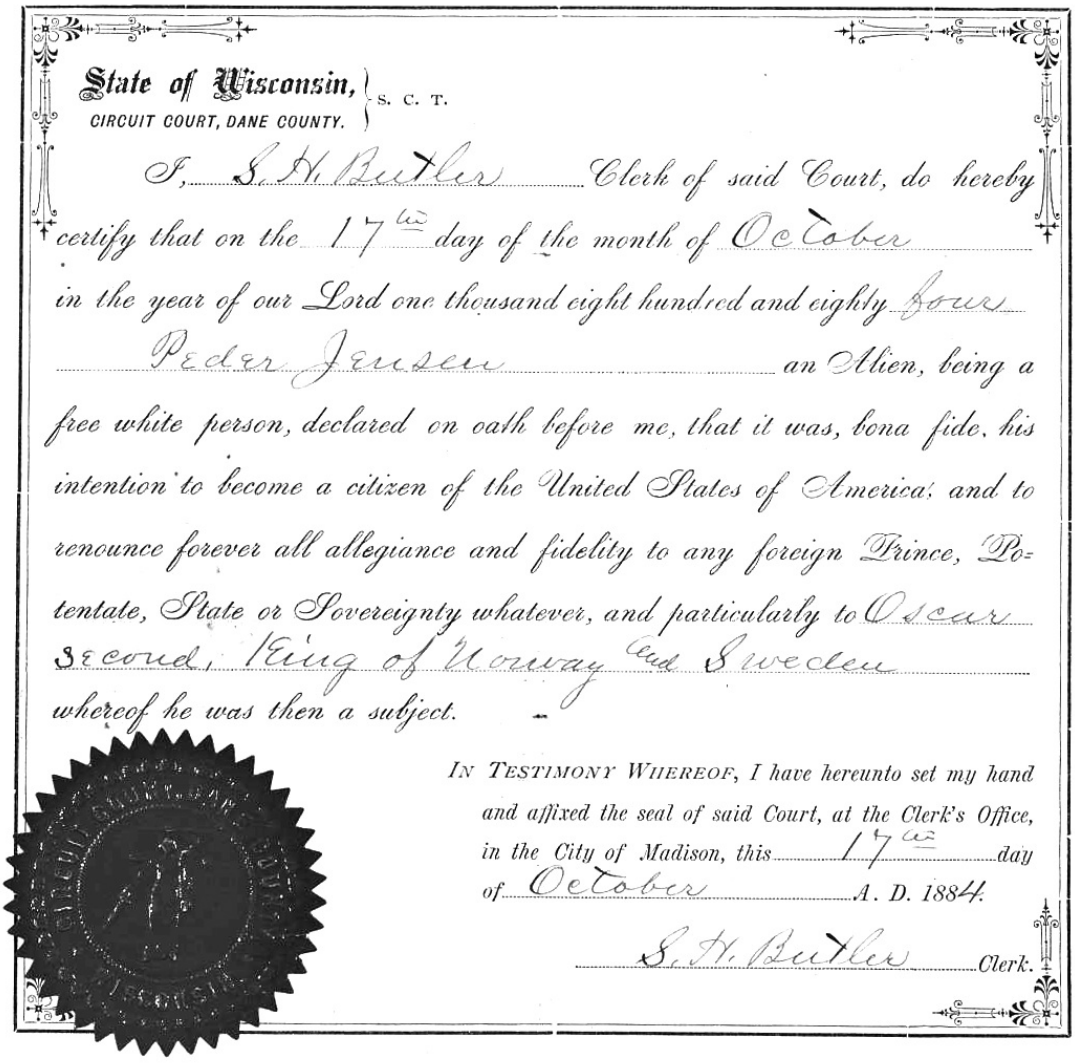
Report or Manifest of all the Passengers taken on Board the ..... whereof ..... is Master, from ..... burthen ..... Tons ..... and owned by ..... of ..... and bound to .....

NAMES	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION	To what Country belonging	Country of which it is their intention to become Inhabitants	Number and Names of Passengers who Died on the Voyage
S. Olson	18	male	Laborer	Norway	United States	
do P. Jensen	25	do	do	do	do	
S. Hjersen	26	do	do	do	do	

Figure 108

Declaration of Intention - Peder Jensen

17 Oct 1884, Dane County Circuit Court, Wisconsin



State of Wisconsin, } S. C. T.
CIRCUIT COURT, DANE COUNTY.

I, S. H. Butler Clerk of said Court, do hereby certify that on the 17th day of the month of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty four Peder Jensen an Alien, being a free white person, declared on oath before me, that it was, bona fide, his intention to become a citizen of the United States of America; and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to Oscar Second, King of Norway and Sweden whereof he was then a subject.

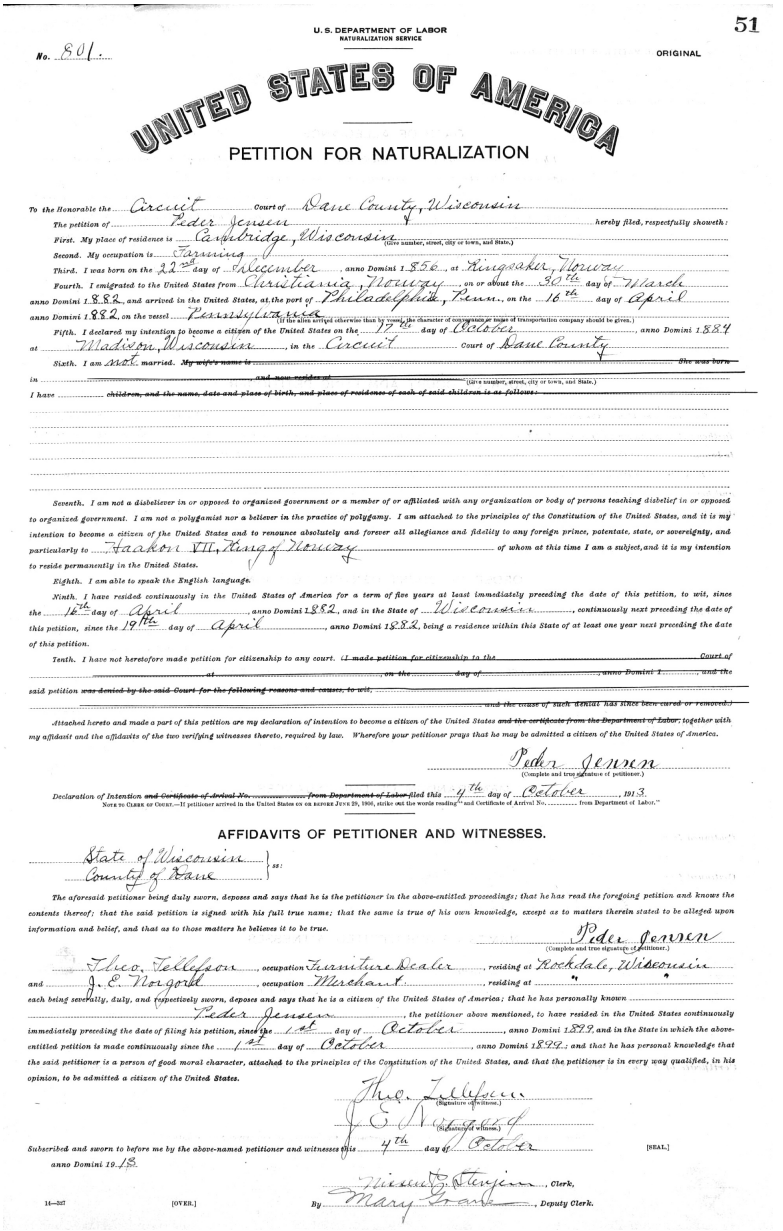
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court, at the Clerk's Office, in the City of Madison, this 17th day of October A. D. 1884.

S. H. Butler Clerk.

Figure 109

Petition for Naturalization - Peder Jensen

4 Oct 1913, Cambridge, Dane County, Wisconsin. Born: 22 Dec 1856, in Ringsaker, Norway. Emigrated 30 Mar 1882, leaving from Chistiania (Oslo) and arriving at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 16 Apr 1882. (Incorrectly names the ship as the Pennsylvania). Occupation: Farming.



51

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
NATURALIZATION SERVICE

No. 801

ORIGINAL

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

To the Honorable the Circuit Court of Dane County, Wisconsin

The petition of Peder Jensen hereby filed, respectfully showeth:

First. My place of residence is Cambridge, Wisconsin
(Give number, street, city or town, and State.)

Second. My occupation is Farming

Third. I was born on the 22nd day of December, anno Domini 1856, at Ringsaker, Norway

Fourth. I emigrated to the United States from Christiania, Norway, on or about the 30th day of March anno Domini 1882, and arrived in the United States, at the port of Philadelphia, Penn., on the 16th day of April anno Domini 1882, on the vessel Pennsylvania
(If the alien arrived otherwise than by vessel, the character of conveyance or name of transportation company should be given.)

Fifth. I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on the 17th day of October, anno Domini 1884 at Madison, Wisconsin, in the Circuit Court of Dane County

Sixth. I am not married. ~~My wife's name is ..... She was born in ..... and now resides at .....~~
(Give number, street, city or town, and State.)

I have ..... ~~children, and the name, date and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children is as follows:~~

Seventh. I am not a disbeliever in or opposed to organized government or a member of or affiliated with any organization or body of persons teaching disbelief in or opposed to organized government. I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy. I am attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and it is my intention to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to Haakon VII, King of Norway of whom at this time I am a subject, and it is my intention to reside permanently in the United States.

Eighth. I am able to speak the English language.

Ninth. I have resided continuously in the United States of America for a term of five years at least immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since the 16th day of April, anno Domini 1882, and in the State of Wisconsin, continuously next preceding the date of this petition, since the 19th day of April, anno Domini 1882, being a residence within this State of at least one year next preceding the date of this petition.

Tenth. I have not heretofore made petition for citizenship to any court. ~~(I made petition for citizenship to the ..... Court of ..... at ....., on the ..... day of ....., anno Domini 1....., and the said petition was denied by the said Court for the following reasons and causes, to wit: ..... and the cause of such denial has since been cured or removed.)~~

Attached hereto and made a part of this petition are my declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States ~~and the certificate from the Department of Labor~~ together with my affidavit and the affidavits of the two verifying witnesses thereto, required by law. Wherefore your petitioner prays that he may be admitted a citizen of the United States of America.

Peder Jensen
(Complete and true signature of petitioner.)

Declaration of Intention ~~and Certificate of Arrival No. ..... from Department of Labor~~ filed this 4th day of October, 1913.
NOTE TO CLERK OF COURT.—If petitioner arrived in the United States on or before JUNE 29, 1906, strike out the words reading "and Certificate of Arrival No. ..... from Department of Labor."

AFFIDAVITS OF PETITIONER AND WITNESSES.

State of Wisconsin } ss:
County of Dane }

The aforesaid petitioner being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the petitioner in the above-entitled proceedings; that he has read the foregoing petition and knows the contents thereof; that the said petition is signed with his full true name; that the same is true of his own knowledge, except as to matters therein stated to be alleged upon information and belief, and that as to those matters he believes it to be true.

Peder Jensen
(Complete and true signature of petitioner.)

Theo. Tellefson, occupation Furniture Dealer, residing at Rockdale, Wisconsin
and J. E. Norgord, occupation Merchant, residing at " "
each being severally, duly, and respectively sworn, deposes and says that he is a citizen of the United States of America; that he has personally known Peder Jensen, the petitioner above mentioned, to have resided in the United States continuously immediately preceding the date of filing his petition, since the 1st day of October, anno Domini 1899, and in the State in which the above-entitled petition is made continuously since the 1st day of October, anno Domini 1899.; and that he has personal knowledge that the said petitioner is a person of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and that the petitioner is in every way qualified, in his opinion, to be admitted a citizen of the United States.

Theo. Tellefson
(Signature of witness.)
J. E. Norgord
(Signature of witness.)

Subscribed and sworn to before me by the above-named petitioner and witnesses this 4th day of October [SEAL.] anno Domini 19.13.

Wesley D. Benjamin, Clerk,
By Mary Grave, Deputy Clerk.

14—327 [OVER.]

Figure 110

Oath of Allegiance - Peder Jensen

Filed 4 Oct 1913. Certificate of Naturalization Issued 19 Jan 1914

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF

Peder Jensen

TO BE ADMITTED A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Filed October 4, 1913.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to Hokon VII the King of Norway of whom I have heretofore been a subject (and that I further renounce the title of ....., an order of nobility, which I have heretofore held); that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same.

[SEAL.]

Peder L. Jensen

Subscribed and sworn to before me, in open Court, this 14th day of June, A. D. 1914

Niven P. Stenjem, Clerk.

ORDER OF COURT ADMITTING PETITIONER

Upon consideration of the petition of Peder Jensen, and affidavits in support thereof, and further testimony taken in open Court, it is ordered that the said petitioner, who has taken the oath required by law, be, and hereby is, admitted to become a citizen of the United States of America, this 14th day of June, A. D. 1914

(It is further ordered, upon consideration of the petition of the said ....., that his name be, and hereby is, changed to ....., under authority of the provisions of section 6 of the act approved June 29, 1906 (34 Stat. L., pt. 1, p. 596), as amended by the act approved March 4, 1913 entitled "An act to create a Department of Labor.")

By the Court:

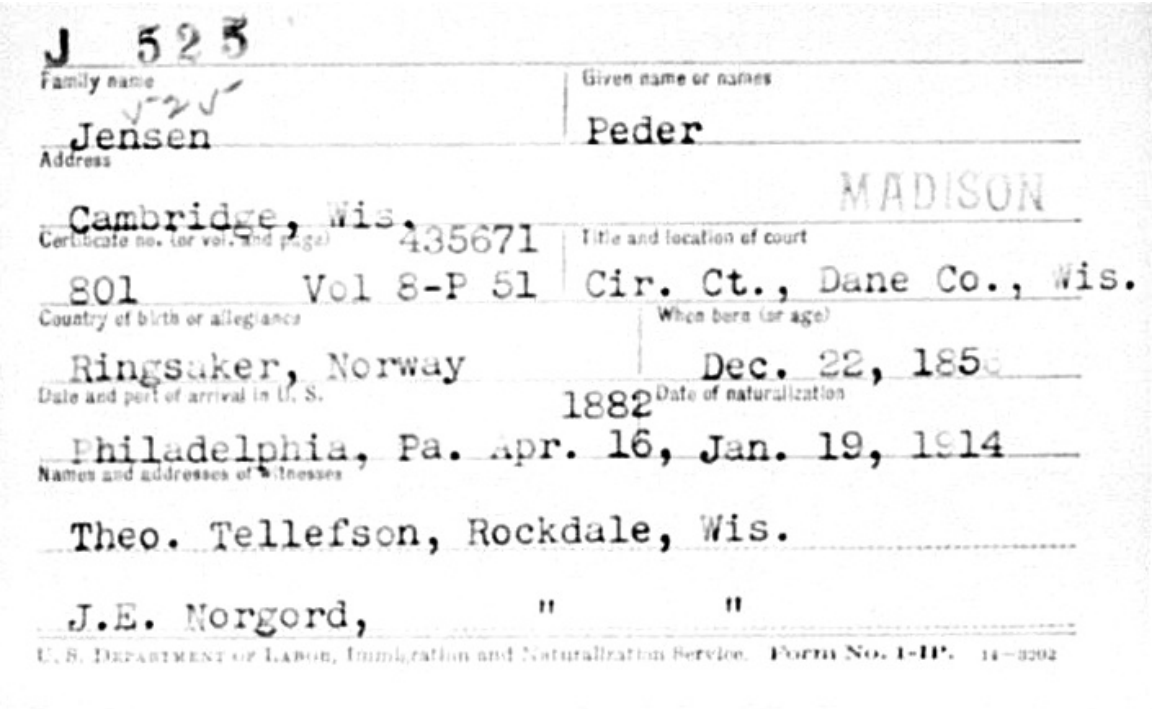
Judge

Certificate of Naturalization, No. 435671, issued on the 19th day of January, A. D. 1914.

[INSERT ON FOLLOWING LINES MARRIAGES AND BIRTHS OCCURRING AFTER PETITIONING AND BEFORE NATURALIZATION.]

Figure 111

Naturalization Card - Peder Jensen



J 525

Family name: Jensen

Given name or names: Peder

Address: Cambridge, Wis.

MADISON

Certificate no. (or vol. and page): 435671

801 Vol 8-P 51

Title and location of court: Cir. Ct., Dane Co., Wis.

Country of birth or allegiance: Ringsaker, Norway

When born (or age): Dec. 22, 185[illegible]

Date and port of arrival in U. S.: 1882

Date of naturalization: Philadelphia, Pa. Apr. 16, Jan. 19, 1914

Names and addresses of witnesses:

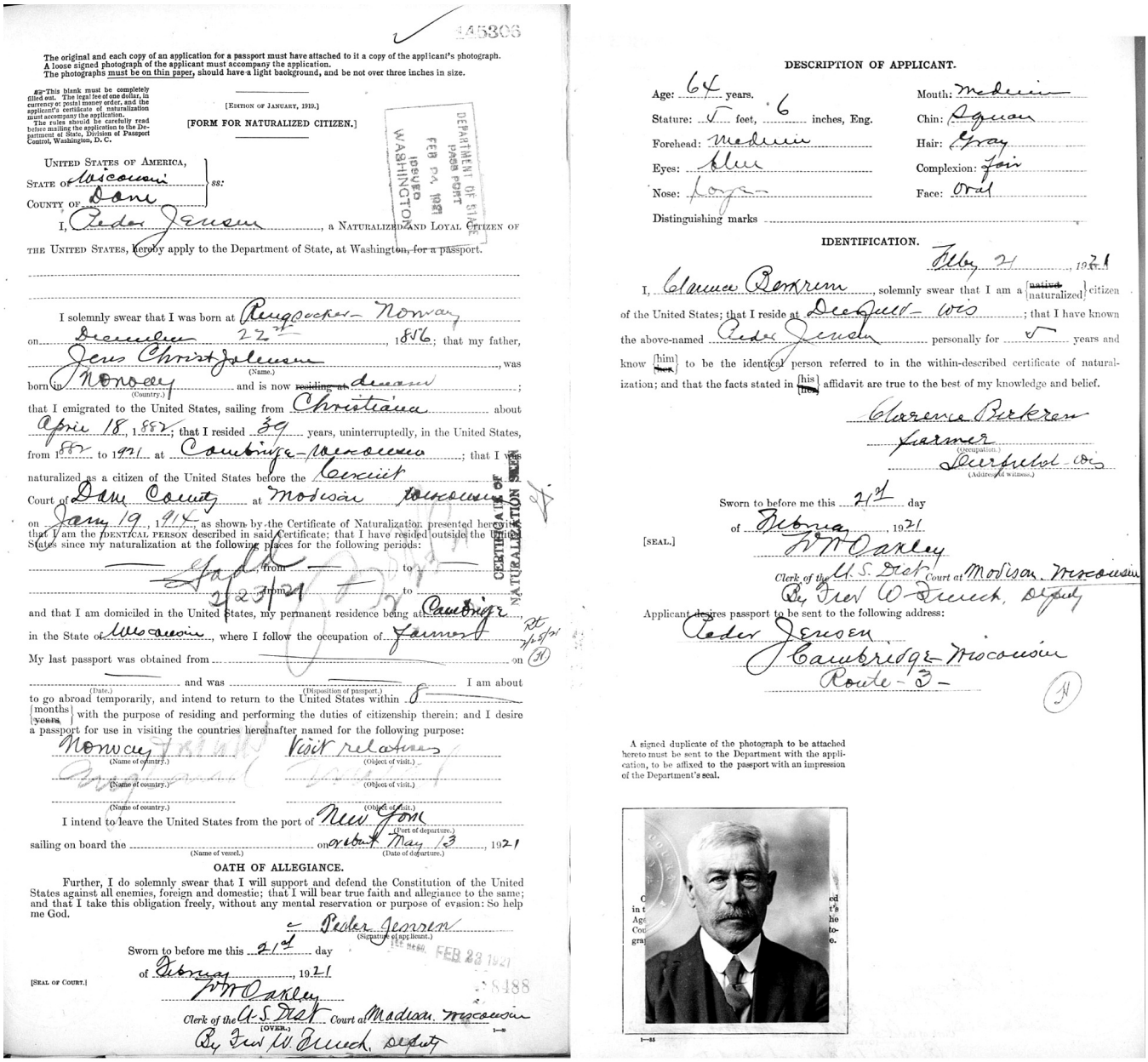
Theo. Tellefson, Rockdale, Wis.

J.E. Norgord, " "

U. S. Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form No. 1-IP. 14-3202

Figure 112

Passport Application - Peder Jensen



The original and each copy of an application for a passport must have attached to it a copy of the applicant's photograph.
A loose signed photograph of the applicant must accompany the application.
The photographs must be on thin paper, should have a light background, and be not over three inches in size.

345306

☞This blank must be completely filled out. The legal fee of one dollar, in currency or postal money order, and the applicant's certificate of naturalization must accompany the application.
The rules should be carefully read before mailing the application to the Department of State, Division of Passport Control, Washington, D. C.

[EDITION OF JANUARY, 1919.]

[FORM FOR NATURALIZED CITIZEN.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE PASSPORT FEB 24 1921 ISSUED WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
STATE OF Wisconsin } ss:
COUNTY OF Dane

I, Peder Jensen, a NATURALIZED AND LOYAL CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, hereby apply to the Department of State, at Washington, for a passport.

I solemnly swear that I was born at Ringsacker- Norway
on December 22nd, 1856; that my father, Jens Christ Jakobsen (Name.), was born in Norway (Country.) and is now ~~residing at~~ deceased; that I emigrated to the United States, sailing from Christiania about April 18, 1882; that I resided 39 years, uninterruptedly, in the United States, from 1882 to 1921 at Cambridge-Wisconsin; that I was naturalized as a citizen of the United States before the Circuit Court of Dane County at Madison Wisconsin on January 19, 1914, as shown by the Certificate of Naturalization presented herewith; that I am the IDENTICAL PERSON described in said Certificate; that I have resided outside the United States since my naturalization at the following places for the following periods:

~~—~~ from ~~—~~ to ~~—~~
from 2/23/21 to Cambridge
and that I am domiciled in the United States, my permanent residence being at Cambridge
in the State of Wisconsin, where I follow the occupation of farmer
My last passport was obtained from ~~—~~ on ~~—~~
(Date.) and was (Disposition of passport.) I am about to go abroad temporarily, and intend to return to the United States within 8 {months / ~~years~~} with the purpose of residing and performing the duties of citizenship therein; and I desire a passport for use in visiting the countries hereinafter named for the following purpose:

Norway (Name of country.) Visit relatives (Object of visit.)
(Name of country.) (Object of visit.)
(Name of country.) (Object of visit.)

I intend to leave the United States from the port of New York (Port of departure.)
sailing on board the (Name of vessel.) on or about May 13 (Date of departure.), 1921

CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION SEAL

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

Further, I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion: So help me God.

Peder Jensen (Signature of applicant.)

Sworn to before me this 21st day of February, 1921

[SEAL OF COURT.]

W. H. Oakley
Clerk of the U.S. Dist. Court at Madison, Wisconsin
By Fred W. French, deputy

FEB 23 1921

88188

[OVER.]

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT.

Age: 64 years.
Stature: 5 feet, 6 inches, Eng.
Forehead: Medium
Eyes: Blue
Nose: Long
Mouth: Medium
Chin: Aquiline
Hair: Gray
Complexion: Fair
Face: Oval
Distinguishing marks

IDENTIFICATION.

Feby 21, 1921

I, Clarence Berkram, solemnly swear that I am a {~~native~~ / naturalized} citizen of the United States; that I reside at Deerfield- Wis; that I have known the above-named Peder Jensen personally for 5 years and know {~~him~~ / her} to be the identical person referred to in the within-described certificate of naturalization; and that the facts stated in {his / ~~her~~} affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Clarence Berkram
farmer (Occupation.)
Deerfield Wis (Address of witness.)

Sworn to before me this 21st day of February, 1921

[SEAL.]

W. H. Oakley
Clerk of the U.S. Dist. Court at Madison, Wisconsin
By Fred W. French, deputy

Applicant desires passport to be sent to the following address:
Peder Jensen
Cambridge- Wisconsin
Route- 3-

A signed duplicate of the photograph to be attached hereto must be sent to the Department with the application, to be affixed to the passport with an impression of the Department's seal.

1—25

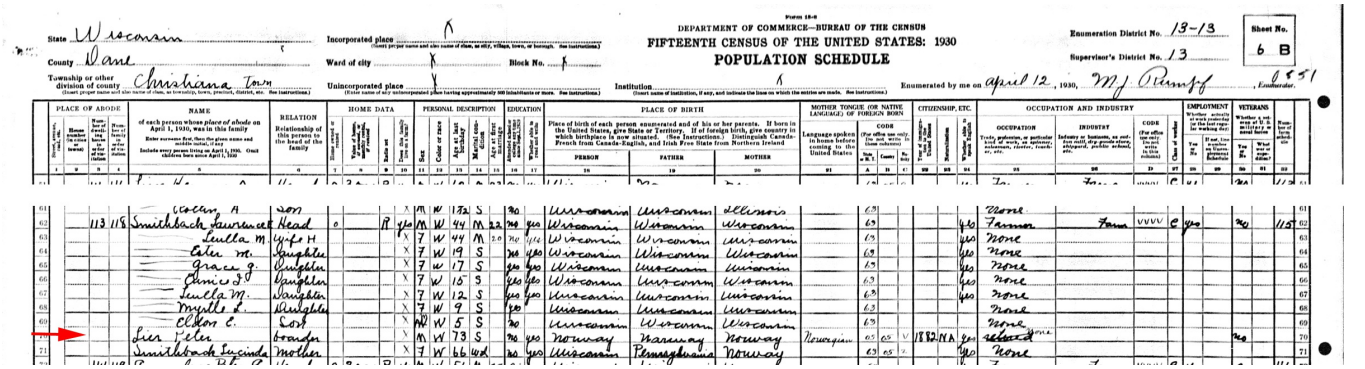
Figure 113

Swore oath of allegiance on 21 Feb 1921 at Dane County, Wisconsin circuit court. Born 22 Dec Ringsaker, Norway. Father was Jens Christiansen. Emigrated from Christiania (Oslo) 18 Apr 1882. Resided in US for 39 uninterrupted years from 1882 to 1921 at Cambridge, Wisconsin. Occupation is farmer. Intends to go abroad to Norway to visit relatives and return in 8 months. Anticipated departure is New York about 13 May 1921.

Physical description: 64 years, 5'6", blue eyes, gray hair, fair complexion.

1930 Census - Peder Jensen (Peter Lier)

Born 1857, age 73 in Norway. Living in Christiana township, Dane, Wisconsin as a boarder to Lawrence Smithback, a farmer. Peder is now a retired farmer.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930
POPULATION SCHEDULE

State Wisconsin — Incorporated place — Enumeration District No. 13-13 — Sheet No. 6 B
County Dane — Ward of city — Block No. — Supervisor's District No. 13
Township or other division of county Christiana Town — Unincorporated place — Institution — Enumerated by me on April 12, 1930, M J Rumpf, Enumerator. 6851

	PLACE OF ABODE		NAME	RELATION	HOME DATA		PERSONAL DESCRIPTION			EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH			MOTHER TONGUE (OR NATIVE LANGUAGE) OF FOREIGN BORN	CITIZENSHIP, ETC.		OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY			EMPLOYMENT	VETERANS		
	Street, avenue, road, etc.	House number (in cities or towns)	Name of each person whose place of abode on April 1, 1930, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on April 1, 1930. Omit children born since April 1, 1930	Relationship of this person to the head of the family	Value of home (owned) or monthly rental (rented)	Does this family own a radio set?	Sex	Color or race	Age at last birthday	Marital condition	Attended school or college any time since Sept. 1, 1929?	Place of birth of each person enumerated and of his or her parents. If born in the United States, give State or Territory. If of foreign birth, give country in which birthplace is now situated. (See Instructions.) Distinguish Canada-French from Canada-English, and Irish Free State from Northern Ireland			Language spoken in home before coming to the United States	Can speak English	Year of immigration	Naturalization	Occupation	Industry	Code	Class of worker	Weeks worked	Wages or salary	Number of farm schedule
												PERSON	FATHER	MOTHER											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
61			Lawrence A	son			M	W	32	S		Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Illinois					None						61
62		113	Smithback Lawrence	Head	0		M	W	44	M	22	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin				yes	Farmer	Farm	VVVV	C	yes	115	62
63			Leula M	wife			F	W	44	M	20	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin				yes	None						63
64			Esther M	daughter			F	W	19	S		Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin				yes	None						64
65			Grace J	daughter			F	W	17	S		Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin				yes	None						65
66			Janice J	daughter			F	W	15	S		Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin				yes	None						66
67			Leula M	daughter			F	W	12	S		Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin				yes	None						67
68			Myrtle L	daughter			F	W	9	S		Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin					None						68
69			Elton C	son			M	W	5	S		Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin					None						69
70			Lier Peter	boarder			M	W	73	S		Norway	Norway	Norway	Norwegian		1882	NA	retired farmer						70
71			Smithback Lucinda	mother			F	W	66	wd		Wisconsin	Pennsylvania	Norway				yes	None						71

Figure 114

Family Group Sheets

Descendants of Marie Kristiansdatter

1-Marie Kristiansdatter (3 Oct 1852-11 Aug 1930)
+Mathias Andersen (4 Aug 1848-6 Sep 1910)
. . . . 2-Edward M. Fremstad (20 Apr 1876-9 Mar 1935)
. . . . +Nilla (Nellie) Gustavsdatter Fallet (3 Aug 1886-8 Mar 1972)
. . . . . 3-George Benjamin Fremstad (11 Dec 1906-9 May 1983)
. . . . . 3-Hazel Viola Fremstad (20 Aug 1910-1 Oct 1989)
. . . . . 3-Marian Mathilda Fremstad (1 Jun 1912-2 Feb 1987)
. . . . . 3-Nora Evelyn Fremstad (22 Jan 1915-6 Jan 2005)
. . . . . 3-Vernon Arthur Fremstad (27 Aug 1918-2 Jan 1981)
+Bernt August Simensen Togstad (10 May 1864-2 Oct 1950)
. . . . 2-Julia Berntsdatter Simonsen Togstad (8 Nov 1885-16 Aug 1950)
. . . . +Ole C. Karlsen Sanden (28 May 1843-7 Jan 1912)
. . . . 2-Christian Simensen Berntsen Togstad (6 Sep 1887-11 Jun 1937)
. . . . +Carrie (Karine) Estensen (27 Sep 1890-26 May 1978)
. . . . . 3-Bernice Evangeline Togstad (12 Dec 1922-12 Jul 2003)
. . . . . 3-Virgil Mervall Togstad (4 Sep 1926-4 Feb 2004)
. . . . 2-Bernhard "Bennie" Adolf Berntsen Togstad (25 Mar 1890-23 Mar 1949)
. . . . +Ethel Andrina Sorenson (18 Jan 1914-10 Feb 1954)
. . . . 2-Maren Emilie Berntsdatter (21 Mar 1892-23 Mar 1893)
. . . . 2-Sina Sena Berntsdatter Togstad (26 Apr 1894-30 Oct 1949)
. . . . +Carl Martin Anderson (20 Apr 1890-15 Aug 1954)
. . . . . 3-Marvin Richard Togstad (8 May 1920-30 Dec 1978)
. . . . . 3-John Togstad (27 Sep 1921-12 Mar 1999)
+Peder Jensen Lier (22 Dec 1856-2 Sep 1948)
. . . . 2-John Fremstad (26 Mar 1882-18 Jan 1950)
. . . . +Hazel Winifred Oakes (22 May 1903-16 May 1986)
. . . . . 3-Olive Hazel Fremstad (15 May 1920-27 Jun 2018)
. . . . . 3-Eleanor Mae Fremstad (1 May 1921-1 May 1921)
. . . . . 3-Laurel Marie Fremstad (21 Jan 1923-30 Jun 2010)
. . . . . 3-Hattie Josephine "Josie" Fremstad (28 May 1924-19 Feb 2019)
. . . . . 3-John Kermit Fremstad (2 Jul 1926-28 Jun 1992)
. . . . . 3-Phyllis Verene Fremstad (25 Jul 1928-2 Apr 2017)
. . . . . 3-Norma Jean Fremstad
. . . . . 3-Donald Duane Fremstad
. . . . . 3-Carol Mae Fremstad
. . . . . 3-Mary Lou Fremstad

FATHER Mathias Andersen

BIRTH	4 Aug 1848	Mengsholeie, Nes, Hedmark, Norway[1–21]
BAPTISM	19 Nov 1848	Nes, Hedmark, Norway[22–24]
CONFIRMATION	4 Oct 1863	Nes, Hedmark, Norway
RESIDENCE	1865	Unmarried; Birth place: Nes; Birth year: about 1848; “Day laborer at the manor (estate).” Mengshol, Nes, Hedmark, Norway[25]
RESIDENCE	1875	Unmarried, day laborer Mengshoel, Nes, Hedmark, Norway[26]
RESIDENCE	1891	married; family head Nes, Hedmark, Norge[27]
RESIDENCE	1900	Married, head of household nes, hedmark, Hedmark, Norway[28]
DEATH	6 Sep 1910	Born in Mengshoel. Resided in Mengshoel at time of death. Cause: Stroke. Mengsholeie, Nes, Hedmark, Norway[29]
BURIAL	19 Sep 1910	[30]
FATHER	Anders Nilsen 1807-1880	
MOTHER	Berte Oldsdatter 1820-	

MOTHER Marie Kristiansdatter[31–32]

BIRTH	3 Oct 1852	Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway[33–59]
BAPTISM	31 Oct 1852	Hedmark, Norway[60]
CONFIRMATION	18 Oct 1868	Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway
RESIDENCE	21 May 1882	Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway[61]
RESIDENCE	1891	1891 NW census: Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: wife. Location originally "næs hedem, nes, Hedmark, Norway" which equates to Nes, Hedmark. Nes, Hedmark, Norway[62]
DEPARTURE	20 Aug 1897	Final Destination is Toronto, Canada. Ship is SS Angelo which runs between Oslo and Hull, England. Oslo, Norway[63]
DEPARTURE	26 Aug 1897	Liverpool, England[64–66]
ARRIVAL	6 Sep 1897	Left Liverpool. Ship was State of California. Final Destination is either Toronto, Canada or Toronto SD. Children are listed as well. Border Crossing doc clearly indicates their final destination is Toronto, SD. Montreal, Quebec, Canada[67–73]
RESIDENCE	1900	Maren Emilie was not in 1900 census, so I presume she has passed away by now. Scandinavia, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[74]
RESIDENCE	1910	Grange, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[75]
RESIDENCE	abt 1915	South Dakota, United States[76]
RESIDENCE	1920	Brookings Ward 3, Brookings, South Dakota, USA[77]
RESIDENCE	1925	per 1925 SD Census Brookings, Brookings County, South Dakota, USA
DEATH	11 Aug 1930	Brookings County, South Dakota, USA[78–80]
ALT. NAME		Maria Christensdatter
BURIAL		Brookings, Brookings County, South Dakota, United States of America[81]
FATHER	Christian Larsen -	
MOTHER	Eli Eriksdatter -	

CHILDREN

M Edward M. Fremstad[82–83]

BIRTH	20 Apr 1876	Vardal, Oppland, Norway[84–96]
BAPTISM	5 Jun 1876	Gjovik, Oppland, Norway[97]
DEPARTURE	22 Jul 1887	Ship SS Angelo, per emigration record. He would have taken the SS Angelo to Hull, England then boarded another ship to go to Philadelphia. Oslo, Norway[98]
ARRIVAL	15 Aug 1887	per Naturalization and arrival docs. Ship was the Lord Clive. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA[99–104]
NATURALIZATION	8 Oct 1898	Deuel County, South Dakota, USA
RESIDENCE	1900	Farm Laborer for a Hotel Keeper living on site. Herrick, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[105]
NATURALIZATION	12 Dec 1901	Deuel County, South Dakota, USA

	NATURALIZATION	4 Oct 1904	Deuel County, South Dakota, USA
	RESIDENCE	1905	Brandt, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[106]
	RESIDENCE	1910	Scandinavia, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[107]
	RESIDENCE	abt 1915	Scandinavia Township, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[108]
	RESIDENCE	1918	Section Foreman Railroad Ward, Moody County, South Dakota, USA[109]
	RESIDENCE	1920	Ward, Moody, South Dakota, USA[110]
	RESIDENCE	1930	Luverne, Luverne, Rock, Minnesota, USA[111]
	DEATH	9 Mar 1935	Died of suicide: shooting with rifle. See obit. Luverne, Rock, Minnesota, USA[112–115]
	RAILROAD SECTION MAN END LIFE AT LUVERNE	11 Mar 1935	Sioux Falls, South Dakota[116]
	BURIAL	12 Mar 1935	Luverne, Rock County, Minnesota, United States of America[117–118]
	ALT. NAME		Evin Mathiassen

FATHER Peder Jensen Lier

BIRTH	22 Dec 1856	Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway[1–12]
BAPTISM	11 Jan 1857	Ringsaker, Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway[13–14]
RESIDENCE	1865	Marital Status: Unmarried. Laborer Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norge[15]
CONFIRMATION	6 Oct 1872	Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway
RESIDENCE	1875	Marital Status: Single ; Relation to Head of House: Servant Boy Børdal, Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norge[16]
RESIDENCE	Jun 1881	This is his residence on JohnF's baptism docs. He was out of the country by the time of the baptism, so this farm was most likely his last place of residence. Stensengeie, Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway
DEPARTURE	31 Mar 1882	Emigration record states he left on ship Angelo Oslo, Norway[17]
ARRIVAL	16 Apr 1882	SS Indiana Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA[18–21]
NATURALIZATION	17 Oct 1884	Cambridge, Dane County, Wisconsin, USA
RESIDENCE	1900	Occupation: Farmer; Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Boarder Christiana, Dane, Wisconsin, USA[22]
RESIDENCE	1910	Occupation: Laborer; Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Hired Man Christian, Dane, Wisconsin, USA[23]
NATURALIZATION	4 Oct 1913	Cambridge, Dane County, Wisconsin, USA
NATURALIZATION	19 Jan 1914	Cambridge, Dane County, Wisconsin, USA
RESIDENCE	1920	Occupation: Farmer; Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Head Christiana, Dane, Wisconsin, USA[24]
RESIDENCE	21 Feb 1921	from Passport application Cambridge, Dane County, Wisconsin, USA
PASSPORT APPLICATION	24 Feb 1921	Father Jens Christensen. Lived in Cambridge, WI continuously 1882-1921. Naturalized 19 Jan 1914. Occ: Farmer. Going to Norway within 8 months to visit relatives. 5'6", blue eyes. Dane County, Wisconsin, USA
RESIDENCE	1930	Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Boarder; Occupation: Retiree Christiana Township, Dane, Wisconsin, USA[25]
RESIDENCE	1935	Rural, Dane, Wisconsin[26]
RESIDENCE	1940	Living at Skaalen Old People's Home. Marital Status: Single Pleasant Spring Twp, Pleasant Springs, Dane, Wisconsin, USA[27]
RESIDENCE	1946	Skaalen Old People's Home burned down. Unknown if Peder was there at the time. Pleasant Spring Twp, Pleasant Springs, Dane, Wisconsin, USA
TEST	1 Apr 1946	Stoughton, Wisconsin[28]
SKAALEN HOME IS DESTROYED BY FIRE (PG. 1)	1 Apr 1946	Stoughton, Wisconsin[29]
DEATH	2 Sep 1948	No Source for this. From FamilySearch for Peder Jensen Lier. https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/sources/GJWZ-HXD Dane, Wisconsin, USA[30–31]
PEDER LIER DIES AT NURSING HOME	2 Sep 1948	Stoughton, Wisconsin[32]
ALT. NAME		Peder Jensen
FATHER	Jens Christiansen 1828-	
MOTHER	Maria Torgersdatter 1825-	

MOTHER Marie Kristiansdatter[33–34]

BIRTH	3 Oct 1852	Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway[35–61]
BAPTISM	31 Oct 1852	Hedmark, Norway[62]
CONFIRMATION	18 Oct 1868	Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway
RESIDENCE	21 May 1882	Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway[63]
RESIDENCE	1891	1891 NW census: Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: wife. Location originally "næs hedem, nes, Hedmark, Norway" which equates to Nes, Hedmark. Nes, Hedmark, Norway[64]
DEPARTURE	20 Aug 1897	Final Destination is Toronto, Canada. Ship is SS Angelo which runs between Oslo and Hull, England. Oslo, Norway[65]

	DEPARTURE	26 Aug 1897	Liverpool, England[66–68]
	ARRIVAL	6 Sep 1897	Left Liverpool. Ship was State of California. Final Destination is either Toronto, Canada or Toronto SD. Children are listed as well. Border Crossing doc clearly indicates their final destination is Toronto, SD. Montreal, Quebec, Canada[69–75]
	RESIDENCE	1900	Maren Emilie was not in 1900 census, so I presume she has passed away by now. Scandinavia, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[76]
	RESIDENCE	1910	Grange, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[77]
	RESIDENCE	abt 1915	South Dakota, United States[78]
	RESIDENCE	1920	Brookings Ward 3, Brookings, South Dakota, USA[79]
	RESIDENCE	1925	per 1925 SD Census Brookings, Brookings County, South Dakota, USA
	DEATH	11 Aug 1930	Brookings County, South Dakota, USA[80–82]
	ALT. NAME		Maria Christensdatter
	BURIAL		Brookings, Brookings County, South Dakota, United States of America[83]
	FATHER	Christian Larsen -	
	MOTHER	Eli Eriksdatter -	

CHILDREN

M John Fremstad[84–85]

	BIRTH	26 Mar 1882	Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway[86–106]
	BAPTISM	21 May 1882	Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway[107–108]
	RESIDENCE	1891	Relation to Head of House: Son He was living with mother and step-father in Nes parish. Nes, Hedmark, Norway[109]
	DEPARTURE	2 Jun 1893	This is emmigration out of Norway on SS Angelo which ran between Oslo and Hull, England. Final destination is Quebec, Canada. He was 11, living in Stange, farming. Stange is about 34kM from Fremstad, so his last location was not that farm. Oslo, Norway[110]
	ARRIVAL	14 Jun 1893	Arrived on ship Parisian. He arrived with the clothes on his back and a pocket knife. His travel to Deuel, SD was probably prepaid. The passenger list doesn't say if he had any money, but I suspect if he did it was very little. Quebec, Canada
	CONFIRMATION	12 Jul 1896	Brandt, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[111]
	RESIDENCE	25 Jun 1900	18 years old. Occupation: Farm Labor. Servant for Nicolis Solem. He is living in Norden Township and his brother in Herrick Township, about 11 miles away. Norden, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[112]
	NATURALIZATION	14 Aug 1906	Howard, Williams County, North Dakota, USA[113]
	RESIDENCE	1910	27 years old. Servant for David Haskett. Immigration Yr: 1894. Naturalized. Bar Butte Township is an area directly East of Grenora. Hanks is in this area just east of Grenora. Williston is the nearest town of any size. Bar Butte, Williams County, North Dakota, USA[114]
	NATURALIZATION	20 May 1912	Williams County, North Dakota, USA[115]
	RESIDENCE	1914	Barr Butte, Williams, North Dakota[116]
	RESIDENCE	1915	Williams County, North Dakota, USA
	RESIDENCE	18 Sep 1918	WWI draft card has mailing address as Grenora. Grenora, Williams County, North Dakota, USA[117]
	RESIDENCE	abt 1919	Grenora, Williams County, North Dakota, USA[118]
	RESIDENCE	1920	37 years old. Head of household. Has Mortgage. Immigrated: 1894. Naturalized: 1912. Occupation: Farmer. Farm Schedule: 15. Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head: Head Barr Butte, Williams, North Dakota, USA[119]
	RESIDENCE	1925	Barr Butte, Williams, North Dakota, USA[120]
	RESIDENCE	1930	48 years old. No Radio. Lives on Farm. Occupation: None. Farm Schedule 29. Barr Butte, Barr Butte, Williams, North Dakota, USA[121]
	RESIDENCE	1935	Rural, Williams, North Dakota[122]

	RESIDENCE	1940	58 years old. Renting, lives on farm. Completed 6th grade. Received Public Emergency work, lasting 28 weeks. Occupation: laborer. Worked with WPA. Weeks worked in 1939: 24. 1939 income: $400. Scorio, Williams, North Dakota, USA[123]
	RESIDENCE	1942	Hanks, North Dakota, USA[124]
	RESIDENCE	31 Dec 1948	Spokane, Spokane County, Washington, USA
	RESIDENCE	1949	Spokane, Washington, USA[125]
	DEATH	18 Jan 1950	Spokane, Spokane County, Washington, USA[126–131]
	RESIDENCE	18 Jan 1950	224 Indiana ave.[132]
	OBITUARY	23 Jan 1950	Spokane, Washington[133]
	ALT. NAME		Johan Pedersen
	BURIAL		Spokane, Spokane County, Washington, United States of America[134]

FATHER Bernt August Simensen Togstad[1]

BIRTH	10 May 1864	Ottestad, Stange, Hedmark, Norway[2–28]
CHR	24 Jul 1864	Ottestad, Stange, Hedmark,Norway[29]
RESIDENCE	1875	Living in cottage on Todderud Farm in Stange. Son to Simen Nielssen. Born 1864. His father was a day laborer but also had a tiny plot of land. Hestehagen Plads Under Todderud, Stange, Hedmark, Norway[30–31]
CONFIRMATION	12 Oct 1879	Ottestad Sogn, Stange, Hedmark, Norway
RESIDENCE	1891	Living at rural residence named Sveen. in Nes municipal area. Maried to MarieK and step son Johan (JohnF) lives with them. Has children Juli, Kristian, & Bernard. Næs Hedem, Nes, Hedmark, Norway[32]
DEPARTURE	5 Jun 1896	Bernt left Oslo with final destination of Quebec. In 1896, the SS Montebello was doing the Oslo to Hull, England run, so Bernt would have take the same basic route as John thru Quebec. Oslo, Oslo, Norway[33–34]
ARRIVAL	20 Jun 1896	He arrives in Quebec. Levis, is across from Quebec city and the railhead.His destination from there is Torono, Canada but his final destination is Toronto, SD (this is a bit confusing). He is going to meet "brother" Evin Matthiassen, eg. Marie's first son. Levis, Quebec, Canada[35–38]
RESIDENCE	6 Sep 1897	According to Marie's passenger list, they are going to Bernt in Toronto, SD. Toronto, Deuel, South Dakota, USA
NATURALIZATION	7 Nov 1898	Deuel, South Dakota, USA
RESIDENCE	1900	Living in Scandinavia Township with Marie & Children Julia, Christian, Benhard, & Sina. Says he immigrated 1895. Rest of family 1897. Farmer than owns his own property. All kids at school except Sina. Scandinavia, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[39]
RESIDENCE	1910	At Grange Township. Farmer, has his own farm, and employs others. Wife Marie, children Julia(24), Bennie(20), Sina(15) at home. Looks like Bennie is working on the home farm. Grange, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[40]
RESIDENCE	abt 1915	Marital Status: Married; Religion: Lutheran South Dakota, USA[41]
NATURALIZATION	21 Mar 1918	Deuel, South Dakota, USA
RESIDENCE	1920	Living at 1st Ave S, Brooking, SD. He no longer has his farm and is renting a house. He would be 56 years old. Marie (68) is still there as is Julia(36), Bennie(29), and Sina(24). Julia is working as a dishwasher at a restaurant. The other 2 children aren' Brookings Ward 3, Brookings, South Dakota, USA[42]
RESIDENCE	13 Apr 1922	Brookings, South Dakota, USA[43]
RESIDENCE	1925	Per 1925 SD Census Brookings, South Dakota, USA
RESIDENCE	1935	Marital Status: Widowed Toronto ward 1, Deuel, South Dakota[44]
RESIDENCE	1949	Toronto, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[45]
RESIDENCE	5 Apr 1950	Bernt is now 80. Only Julia is with him. Toronto, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[46]
DEATH	2 Oct 1950	Deuel, South Dakota, USA[47–48]
DEPARTURE		Liverpool, England[49]
BURIAL		Clear Lake, Deuel County, South Dakota, United States of America[50]
MARRIAGE	15 Jun 1885	Ottestad, Stange, Hedmark, Norway[51–53]
FATHER	Simen Nielssen 1832-	
MOTHER	Karoline Iversdatter 1843-	

MOTHER Marie Kristiansdatter[54–55]

BIRTH	3 Oct 1852	Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway[56–82]
BAPTISM	31 Oct 1852	Hedmark, Norway[83]
CONFIRMATION	18 Oct 1868	Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway
RESIDENCE	21 May 1882	Ringsaker, Hedmark, Norway[84]
RESIDENCE	1891	1891 NW census: Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: wife. Location originally "næs hedem, nes, Hedmark, Norway" which equates to Nes, Hedmark. Nes, Hedmark, Norway[85]
DEPARTURE	20 Aug 1897	Final Destination is Toronto, Canada. Ship is SS Angelo which runs between Oslo and Hull, England. Oslo, Norway[86]
DEPARTURE	26 Aug 1897	Liverpool, England[87–89]

	ARRIVAL	6 Sep 1897	Left Liverpool. Ship was State of California. Final Destination is either Toronto, Canada or Toronto SD. Children are listed as well. Border Crossing doc clearly indicates their final destination is Toronto, SD. Montreal, Quebec, Canada[90–96]
	RESIDENCE	1900	Maren Emilie was not in 1900 census, so I presume she has passed away by now. Scandinavia, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[97]
	RESIDENCE	1910	Grange, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[98]
	RESIDENCE	abt 1915	South Dakota, United States[99]
	RESIDENCE	1920	Brookings Ward 3, Brookings, South Dakota, USA[100]
	RESIDENCE	1925	per 1925 SD Census Brookings, Brookings County, South Dakota, USA
	DEATH	11 Aug 1930	Brookings County, South Dakota, USA[101–103]
	ALT. NAME		Maria Christensdatter
	BURIAL		Brookings, Brookings County, South Dakota, United States of America[104]
	FATHER	Christian Larsen -	
	MOTHER	Eli Eriksdatter -	

CHILDREN

F Julia Berntsdatter Simonsen Togstad

	BIRTH	8 Nov 1885	Ottestad, Stange, Hedmark, Norway[105–122]
	BAPTISM	22 Apr 1886	Ottestad, Stange, Hedmark, Norway[123–124]
	RESIDENCE	1891	Birthplace: Ringsaker. Doesn't agree w/ baptism record. Daughter. Father is Cotter (smallholder) and farm laborer. Næs Hedem, Nes, Hedmark, Norway[125]
	DEPARTURE	20 Aug 1897	Final Destination is Toronto, Canada. Ship is SS Angelo which runs between Oslo and Hull, England. Oslo, Norway[126]
	ARRIVAL	6 Sep 1897	Montreal, Quebec, Canada[127–131]
	RESIDENCE	1900	At school Scandinavia, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[132]
	CONFIRMATION	25 May 1902	Toronto, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[133]
	RESIDENCE	1905	Working as Servant Blum, Deuel County, South Dakota, USA[134]
	RESIDENCE	1910	21 and not working. Grange, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[135]
	RESIDENCE	1911	Toronto, Deuel[136]
	RESIDENCE	1920	36. Washing dishes at a restaurant. Brookings Ward 3, Brookings, South Dakota, USA[137]
	RESIDENCE	13 Apr 1922	Brookings, South Dakota, USA[138]
	RESIDENCE	1925	South Dakota, USA[139]
	RESIDENCE	1935	per Edward Fremstad obit Brookings, Brookings County, South Dakota, USA
	RESIDENCE	1945	Marital Status: Widowed Toronto, Deuel, South Dakota[140]
	RESIDENCE	5 Apr 1950	This census states Never married. Daughter. Toronto, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[141]
	DEATH	16 Aug 1950	Deuel, South Dakota, USA[142–145]
	BURIAL		Clear Lake, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[146–148]

M Christian Simensen Berntsen Togstad

	BIRTH	6 Sep 1887	Ottestad, Stange, Hedmark, Norway[149–168]
	BAPTISM	8 Apr 1888	Stange, Stange, Hedmark, Norway[169–170]
	RESIDENCE	1891	Residence is farm/house named "Sveen". Relation to Head of House: Son Nes, Hedmark, Norway[171]
	DEPARTURE	20 Aug 1897	Final Destination is Toronto, Canada. Ship is SS Angelo which runs between Oslo and Hull, England. Oslo, Norway[172–174]
	DEPARTURE	26 Aug 1897	Liverpool, England[175]
	ARRIVAL	6 Sep 1897	Left Liverpool. Ship was State of California. Final Destination is either Toronto, Canada or Toronto SD. Children are listed as well. Border Crossing doc clearly indicates their final destination is Toronto, SD. Montreal, Quebec, Canada[176–183]

	RESIDENCE	1900	Going to school Scandinavia, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[184]
	CONFIRMATION	25 May 1902	Toronto, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[185]
	MILITARY	14 Sep 1909	This is most likely someone else names Christian Simonsen[186]
	RESIDENCE	1910	He is a "hired man" working for Chester Waller, a farmer. Scandinavia, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[187]
	RESIDENCE	1914	Brandt, Deuel[188]
	RESIDENCE	abt 1915	Marital Status: Married South Dakota, United States[189]
	RESIDENCE	1917–1918	Marital Status: Married Deuel County, South Dakota, USA[190]
	RESIDENCE	1920	Occupation: Laborer; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head Vienna, Rock, Minnesota, USA[191]
	RESIDENCE	1925	laborer per 1925 SD census. Brandt, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[192]
	RESIDENCE	1930	Not living on a farm. Census says he is naturalized by now though I cannot find that record. The is section foreman for the railroad. Armstrong Grove, Armstrong Grove, Emmet, Iowa, USA[193]
	DEATH	11 Jun 1937	He was a section foreman for railroad. Died of Leukemia. Info from death certificate. Iowa City, Johnson, Iowa, USA[194–197]
	IOWA FALLS RESIDENT DIES AT HOSPITAL HERE	11 Jun 1937	Iowa City, Iowa[198]
	BURIAL		Deuel County, South Dakota, United States of America[199–201]
	ARRIVAL		Quebec, Canada[202]
M	**Bernhard "Bennie" Adolf Berntsen Togstad**		
	BIRTH	25 Mar 1890	Nes, Hedmark, Norway[203–218]
	BAPTISM	15 Jun 1890	Nes, Hedmark, Norway[219]
	RESIDENCE	1891	Living with family Næs Hedem, Nes, Hedmark, Norway[220]
	DEPARTURE	20 Aug 1897	Final Destination is Toronto, Canada. Ship is SS Angelo which runs between Oslo and Hull, England. Oslo, Norway[221–223]
	DEPARTURE	26 Aug 1897	Liverpool, England[224]
	ARRIVAL	6 Sep 1897	Ship was State of California. Final Destination is either Toronto, Canada or Toronto SD. Children are listed as well. Border Crossing doc clearly indicates their final destination is Toronto, SD. Montreal, Quebec, Canada[225–231]
	RESIDENCE	1900	Living with family. At school. Scandinavia, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[232]
	RESIDENCE	1910	20, living with family in Grange Twp. Working on the home farm. Can Read/Write Grange, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[233]
	RESIDENCE	abt 1915	Marital Status: Single; Religion: Lutheran South Dakota, USA[234]
	RESIDENCE	5 Jun 1917	States he was born in Hammar, NW. Farm laborer, working for Louis Texly near Torronto, SD. Marital Status: Single Toronto, Deuel County, South Dakota, USA[235]
	NATURALIZATION	15 Nov 1918	Deuel, South Dakota, USA
	RESIDENCE	1920	29, living in Brookings with family. Submitted naturalization papers. Appears to not be working. Brookings Ward 3, Brookings, South Dakota, USA[236]
	BEN TOGSTAD, FARM HAND, FACE CHARGE OF FORGING FAR	25 Sep 1923	Sioux Falls, South Dakota[237]
	GIVEN YEAR ON FORGERY CHARGE	26 Sep 1923	Sioux Falls, South Dakota[238]
	RESIDENCE	1925	25 years old. Working as a laborer. See https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MMHF-BF2?lang=en toronoto, Deuel County, South Dakota, USA
	RESIDENCE	1929	Brookings, Brookings, South Dakota, USA[239]
	CHECK FORGET GIVEN 5 YEAR SENTENCE	11 Sep 1929	Sioux Falls, South Dakota[240]
	CITY BRIEFS	12 Sep 1929	Sioux Falls, South Dakota[241]
	RESIDENCE	10 Apr 1930	40, inmate at SD State Penitentiary. Married. Laborer. Exact residence date from census header Sioux Falls, Sioux Falls, Minnehaha, South Dakota, USA[242]

	RESIDENCE	1940	Still at South Dakota State Penitentiary. He is married and naturalized Sioux Falls, Minnehaha, South Dakota, USA[243]
	DEATH	23 Mar 1949	Unable to locate a grave anywhere that might be his. Minneapolis, Hennepin, Minnesota, USA[244–245]
F	**Maren Emilie Berntsdatter**		
	BIRTH	21 Mar 1892	Stange, Hedmark, Norway[246–247]
	BAPTISM	15 Apr 1892	Hedmark, Norway[248–249]
	DEATH	23 Mar 1893	She has passed away before the emigration passenger list to America was created. Stange, Hedmark, Norway
F	**Sina Sena Berntsdatter Togstad[250]**		
	BIRTH	26 Apr 1894	Stange, Hedmark, Norway[251–265]
	BAPTISM	12 Aug 1894	Ottestad, Stange, Hedmark, Norway[266–267]
	DEPARTURE	20 Aug 1897	Oslo, Norway[268–269]
	ARRIVAL	6 Sep 1897	Montreal, Quebec, Canada[270–275]
	RESIDENCE	1900	5, living with family in Scandinavia township, Deuel County, South Dakota. Scandinavia, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[276]
	RESIDENCE	1910	15, living in Grange Township. Can read & write. Grange, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[277]
	RESIDENCE	abt 1915	21, living in Toronto, SD. Toronto, Deuel, South Dakota, USA[278]
	RESIDENCE	Jan 1920	Brookings Ward 3, Brookings, South Dakota, USA[279]
	RESIDENCE	13 Apr 1922	Brookings, South Dakota, USA[280]
	RESIDENCE	1925	30, at the SD State School and Home for Feeble-minded. Marked "Idiot". Living in Asylum with her children. Redfield, Spink, South Dakota, USA[281]
	RESIDENCE	1930	Age 62, but that's wrong. Closer to 34. Living in Asylum with her children. Redfield, Redfield, Spink, South Dakota, USA[282]
	RESIDENCE	1935	Staying in State School and Hospital for the Feeble Minded. This is 1935. Redfield, Spink, South Dakota[283]
	RESIDENCE	1940	40, still living at state home with children. Redfield, Redfield, Spink, South Dakota, USA[284]
	DEATH	30 Oct 1949	No hard docs of date of death. This comment from geneanet, probably Lynn Herric - Sena was buried the day after she died. Her burial site is in the Redfield State Hospital Home and School Cemetery, Redfield, South Dakota. She died of pulmonary TB. Redfield, Spink, South Dakota, USA[285–286]
	ARRIVAL		Quebec, Canada[287]
	DEPARTURE		Liverpool, England[288–289]
	BURIAL		Spink County, South Dakota, USA[290]

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ANDERSEN
Mathias (b. 1848) . . . 1
BERNTSDATTER
Maren Emilie (b. 1892) . . . 9
BERNTSDATTER SIMONSEN TOGSTAD
Julia (b. 1885) . . . 7
BERNTSDATTER TOGSTAD
Sina Sena (b. 1894) . . . 9
BERNTSEN TOGSTAD
Bernhard "Bennie" Adolf (b. 1890) . . . 8
CHRISTIANSEN
Jens (b. 1828) . . . 3
ERIKSDATTER
Eli . . . 1, 4, 7
FREMSTAD
Edward M. (b. 1876) . . . 1
John (b. 1882) . . . 4
IVERSDATTER
Karoline (b. 1843) . . . 6
JENSEN LIER
Peder (b. 1856) . . . 3
KRISTIANSDATTER
Marie (b. 1852) . . . 1, 3, 6
LARSEN
Christian . . . 1, 4, 7
NIELSSEN
Simen (b. 1832) . . . 6
NILSEN
Anders (b. 1807) . . . 1
OLDSDATTER
Berte (b. 1820) . . . 1
SIMENSEN BERNTSEN TOGSTAD
Christian (b. 1887) . . . 7
SIMENSEN TOGSTAD
Bernt August (b. 1864) . . . 6
TORGERSDATTER
Maria (b. 1825) . . . 3

224 Indiana ave. . . . 5
Canada
  Quebec . . . 4, 8–9
    Levis . . . 6
    Montreal . . . 1, 4, 7–9
Deuel
  Brandt . . . 8
  Toronto . . . 7
England
  Liverpool . . . 1, 4, 6–9
Iowa
  Iowa City . . . 8
Norge
  Hedmark
    Nes . . . 1
    Ringsaker . . . 3
      Børdal . . . 3
North Dakota
  Williams
    Barr Butte . . . 4
    Rural . . . 4
Norway
  Hedmark . . . 1, 3, 6, 9
    hedmark
      nes . . . 1
    Nes . . . 1, 3–4, 6–8
      Mengshoel . . . 1
      Mengshol . . . 1
      Mengsholeie . . . 1
      Næs Hedem . . . 6–8
    Ringsaker . . . 1, 3–4, 6
      Ringsaker . . . 3
      Stensengeie . . . 3
    Stange . . . 9
      Hestehagen Plads Under Todderud . . . 6
      Ottestad . . . 6–7, 9
      Ottestad Sogn . . . 6
      Stange . . . 7
  Oppland
    Gjovik . . . 1
    Vardal . . . 1
  Oslo . . . 1, 3–4, 6–9
    Oslo . . . 6
South Dakota
  Deuel
    Toronto . . . 7
    Toronto ward 1 . . . 6
  Sioux Falls . . . 2, 8
  Spink
    Redfield . . . 9
United States
  South Dakota . . . 1, 4, 7–8
United States of America
  Minnesota
    Rock County
      Luverne . . . 2
  South Dakota
    Brookings County
      Brookings . . . 1, 4, 7
    Deuel County . . . 8
      Clear Lake . . . 6
  Washington
    Spokane County
      Spokane . . . 5
USA
  Iowa
    Emmet
      Armstrong Grove
        Armstrong Grove . . . 8
    Johnson
      Iowa City . . . 8
  Minnesota
    Hennepin
      Minneapolis . . . 9
    Rock
      Luverne . . . 2
        Luverne . . . 2
      Vienna . . . 8
  North Dakota
    Hanks . . . 5
    Williams
      Barr Butte . . . 4
        Barr Butte . . . 4
      Scorio . . . 4
    Williams County . . . 4
      Bar Butte . . . 4
      Grenora . . . 4
      Howard . . . 4
  Pennsylvania
    Philadelphia . . . 1, 3
  South Dakota . . . 6–8
    Brookings . . . 6–7, 9
      Brookings . . . 8
      Brookings Ward 3 . . . 1, 4, 6–9
    Brookings County . . . 1, 4, 7
      Brookings . . . 1, 4, 7
    Deuel . . . 6–8
      Brandt . . . 2, 4, 8
      Clear Lake . . . 7
      Grange . . . 1, 4, 6–9
      Herrick . . . 1
      Norden . . . 4
      Scandinavia . . . 1–2, 4, 6–9
      Scandinavia Township . . . 2
      Toronto . . . 6–9
    Deuel County . . . 1–2, 8
      Blum . . . 7
      toronoto . . . 8
      Toronto . . . 8
    Minnehaha
      Sioux Falls . . . 8
        Sioux Falls . . . 8

Moody
Ward . . . 2
Moody County
Ward . . . 2
Spink
Redfield . . . 9
Redfield . . . 9
Spink County . . . 9
Washington
Spokane . . . 5
Spokane County
Spokane . . . 5
Wisconsin
Dane . . . 3
Christian . . . 3
Christiana . . . 3
Christiana Township . . . 3
Pleasant Springs
Pleasant Spring Twp . . . 3
Dane County . . . 3
Cambridge . . . 3
Washington
Spokane . . . 5
Wisconsin
Dane
Rural . . . 3
Stoughton . . . 3

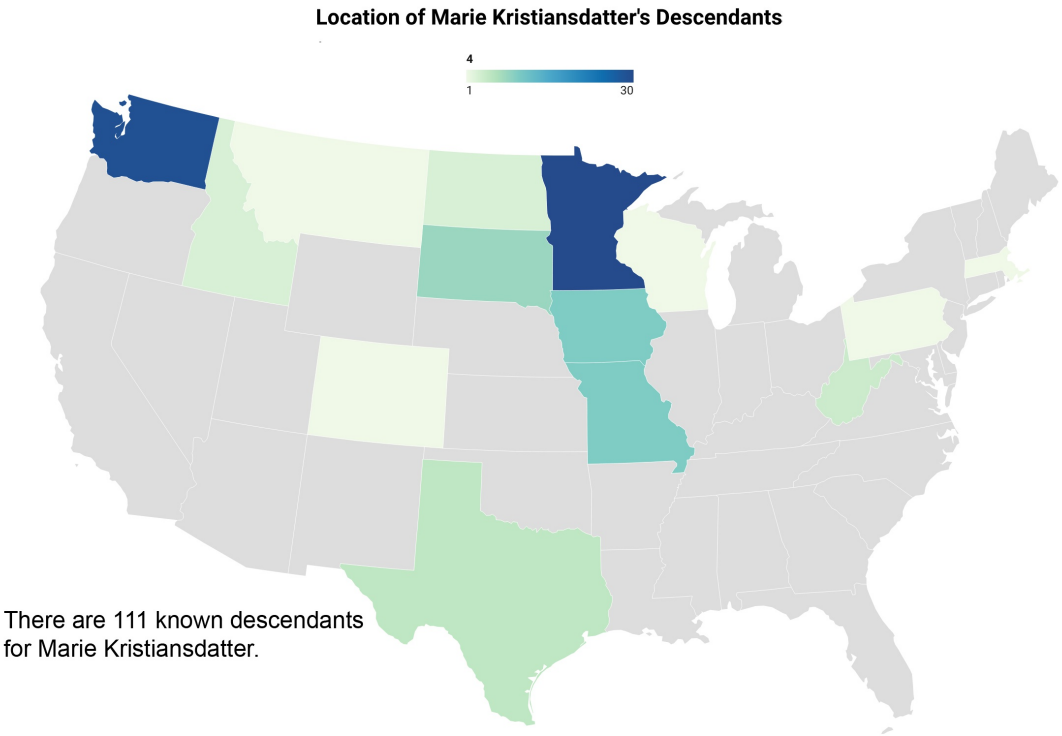
Location of Marie Kristiansdatter's Descendants
4
1
30
There are 111 known descendants
for Marie Kristiansdatter.

Figure 115

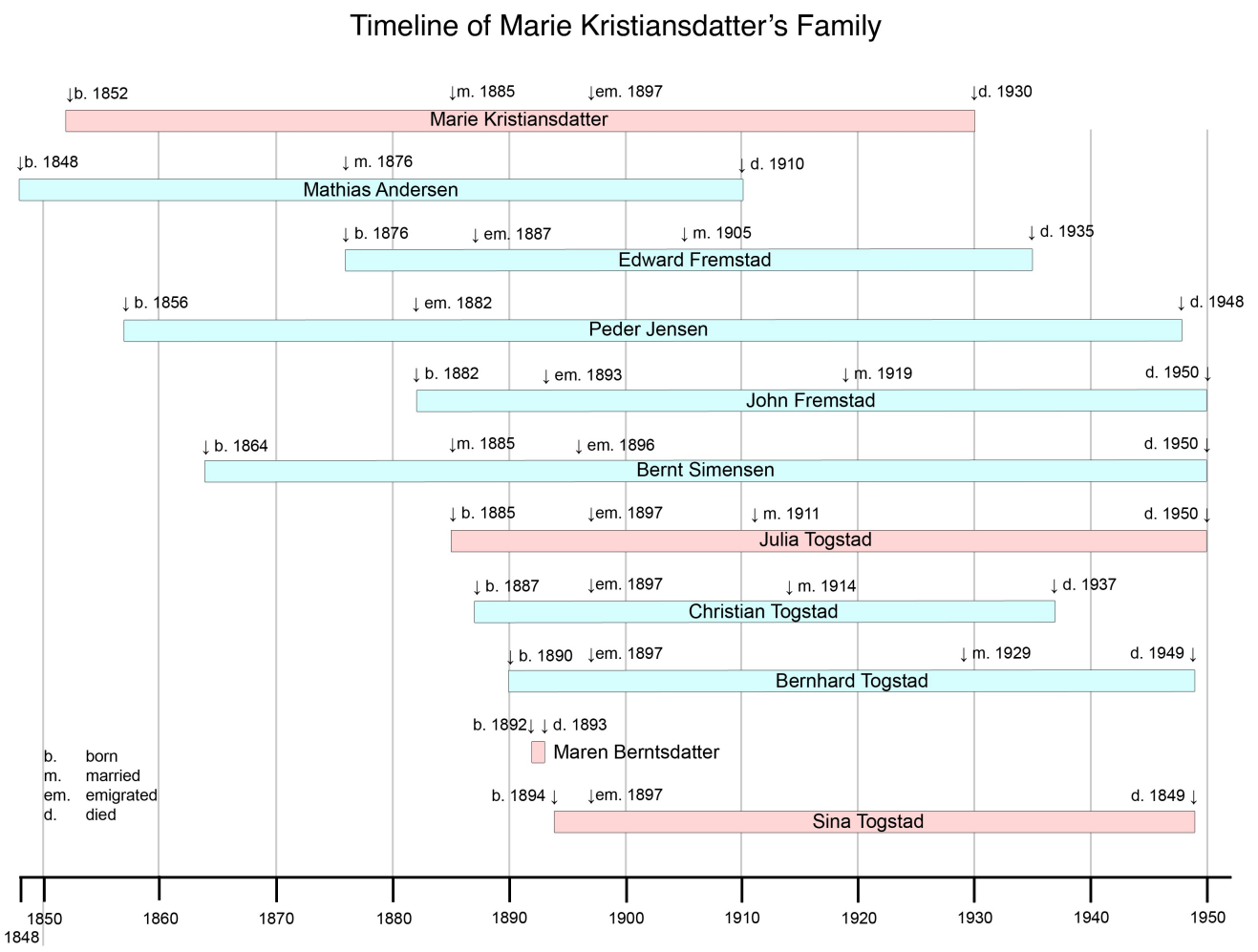
Timeline of Marie Kristiansdatter's Family
↓b. 1852
↓m. 1885
↓em. 1897
↓d. 1930
Marie Kristiansdatter
↓b. 1848
↓ m. 1876
↓ d. 1910
Mathias Andersen
↓ b. 1876
↓ em. 1887
↓ m. 1905
↓ d. 1935
Edward Fremstad
↓ b. 1856
↓ em. 1882
↓ d. 1948
Peder Jensen
↓ b. 1882
↓ em. 1893
↓ m. 1919
d. 1950 ↓
John Fremstad
↓ b. 1864
↓m. 1885
↓ em. 1896
d. 1950 ↓
Bernt Simensen
↓ b. 1885
↓em. 1897
↓ m. 1911
d. 1950 ↓
Julia Togstad
↓ b. 1887
↓em. 1897
↓ m. 1914
↓ d. 1937
Christian Togstad
↓ b. 1890
↓em. 1897
↓ m. 1929
d. 1949 ↓
Bernhard Togstad
b. 1892↓
↓ d. 1893
Maren Berntsdatter
b. born
m. married
em. emigrated
d. died
b. 1894 ↓
↓em. 1897
d. 1849 ↓
Sina Togstad
1848
1850
1860
1870
1880
1890
1900
1910
1920
1930
1940
1950

Figure 116

Attributions

The primary sources for this work have been

- Lovoll, Odd S., *The Promise of America*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1984.
- Wikipedia, www.wikipedia.com.
- Wikipedia Commons, commons.wikimedia.org.
- Ancestry, www.ancestry.com.
- FamilySearch, www.familysearch.org.
- DigitalArkivet - Norwegian Online Records, www.digitalarkivet.no.

Notes

- When showing historical documents, I will often omit parts of the document while retaining only the pertinent parts. For example, you will not see a full census page, but only the header and the lines containing the person(s) in questions.
- If there are ditto marks, I will retain enough of the document so the ditto marks (often "do" in Norwegian documents) will refer back to the correct entry.
- chatGPT was used extensively in this project to transcribe and translate Norwegian church records. It was far from perfect, but with it and the help of some Norwegian speakers, I believe translations to be reasonably accurate. I also used it to "help" write the work. This made the terse technical documentation style I have a little more friendly.

Figure 1	Lake Mjøsa (pic lk Mjosa) Wiki Commons https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mj%C3%B8sa_1.jpg
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- The Norway Flag Icon was made by Freepik from www.flaticon.com.

Glossary

Ancestor
: A person from whom another person is descended, such as a parent, grandparent, or earlier forebear.

Baptism (Dåp)
: A church record of a child's christening, often serving as the earliest surviving documentation of birth.

Burial (Begravelse or Jordfestelse)
: A church record of interment or funeral rites. This date may differ from the actual date of death.

Census
: An official population listing taken at a specific point in time, used to establish residence, household composition, and social status.

Confirmation (Konfirmasjon)
: A religious rite typically performed during adolescence, frequently listing birth details and place of residence.

Declaration of Intention
: The initial formal step toward U.S. citizenship, sometimes referred to as "first papers."

Descendant
: A person who comes from a particular ancestor, such as a child, grandchild, or later generation.

Eie (-eie)
: A suffix meaning "belonging to" or "under" a farm, indicating a subordinate residence or tenant location associated with a main farm.

Enumeration Date
: The official date represented by a census, even if the data was recorded over a longer period.

Family Group Sheet
: A structured summary of a family unit, typically listing parents, their marriage, and their children with associated dates and places.

Farm Name
: In Norway, farm names functioned primarily as place identifiers rather than fixed surnames. Individuals often adopted the name of the farm where they lived, and this name could change multiple times during a lifetime.

Final Papers
: The court record granting full citizenship.

Head of Household
: The individual listed as responsible for a household, not necessarily the oldest or highest-earning member.

Illegitimate (Uægte)
: A historical term indicating a child born to parents who were not married at the time of birth. The term reflects legal and social classifications of the period.

Inmate
: A historical census term describing anyone residing in an institution. It does not imply

criminal incarceration.

Leiermål
: A church term referring to sexual relations outside marriage. Records often specify whether the offense was a first or repeat occurrence.

Naturalization
: The legal process by which an immigrant became a citizen, typically involving several steps over multiple years.

Occupation
: A listed job or role. Historical meanings often differ significantly from modern interpretations.

Parish Register
: A church-maintained record book documenting baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and burials.

Passenger List
: A ship manifest recording travelers arriving at a port. These lists are frequently incomplete or inconsistent.

Patronymic
: A naming system in which a child's last name is derived from the father's given name. For example, the son of Jens would typically be named Jensen.

Pedigree
: A chart or narrative showing a person's direct ancestral line over multiple generations.

Poor Relief or Pauper
: Assistance provided by local authorities to individuals unable to support themselves financially.

Port of Entry
: The official location where immigrants were inspected before being admitted to a country.

Sogn
: A parish district associated with a church. It represents an ecclesiastical jurisdiction rather than a town or municipality.

State Hospital or Asylum
: A government-operated institution for individuals deemed unable to care for themselves. Admissions were often based on social or economic factors as much as medical ones.

Status
: A social or legal classification such as servant, lodger, widow, or institutional resident.

Tenant Farmer
: An individual who lived and worked on land owned by another, a common arrangement in rural Norway.

Errata and Updates

If corrections or additional information becomes available after printing, they can be found at www.xyfyx.com/fremstad or xyfyx.free.nf/fremstad.

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